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## 30 killed in bomb attack on Buenos Aires Jews 100 people wounded in what Rabin terms 'work of satanic terror'

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies



Rescue workers yesterday dig in the rubble of the destroyed seven-story building which housed leading Jewish organizations in downtown Buenos Aires.

At least 30 persons were killed and 100 wounded yesterday when a bomb ripped through the headquarters of Argentina's main Jewish organization, nearly leveling the seven-story Buenos Aires building, Argentinean officials said.

An estimated 100 people were in the headquarters of the Delegation of Argentinean Israeli Associations, an umbrella of Jewish organizations, and the Argentinean Israelite Mutual Association, which is involved in social projects, when the bomb went off. It was not known late last night how many are still trapped.

Jewish groups reported that more than 40 people had survived. At least two persons were pulled out alive yesterday afternoon.

Presidential press secretary Raul Burzaco said two people were arrested in connection with the explosion as they were trying to leave the country. Later, a state-owned news agency reported that the two were an Iranian man and a German woman.

Burzaco also said the government believes a bomb had been planted inside the building where the blast occurred, conflicting with a statement by state prosecutor German Mouldes, who said initial evidence pointed to a car bomb.

President Carlos Menem called the explosion a near-certain bomb attack and said the attackers must not be allowed to escape the country. He ordered the borders sealed and airport and railroad stations closed.

"There's no reason for this. These monsters don't deserve to live in a community like ours," Menem told the Telefe television channel.

Menem said Israeli security and intelligence agencies were working

with Argentinean authorities to determine the cause of the explosion.

Jewish community sources said the government has told them the explosion was the work of a Moslem fundamentalist group from abroad.

A group calling itself the "Islamic Command" called a local radio station to take responsibility, but officials said nothing is known about such a group and the call could have been a hoax.

In March 1992, a bomb destroyed the downtown Israeli Embassy, killing 29 people and wounding more than 220. It was never determined who was responsible for that attack.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin described the explosion as the work of "satanic terror."

"Satanic terror has once again hit a civilian target - this time the offices of the Jewish community in Buenos Aires, which has yet to recover from the deadly terrorist attack on the Israeli Embassy," he said in a statement.

He called the explosion a "cowardly, evil, and heinous" act. "Israel will continue to hunt down the perpetrators of terror until their annihilation," he said.

The blast occurred as members of the organizations were arriving for work, just before 10 a.m. local time.

Argentina's Chief Rabbi Samuel Ben-Hamu wept at the scene of the blast and could hardly speak to reporters who questioned him.

"It's terrible. Why do they do this to us?" a survivor said.

The building was the center of Jewish communal life in Buenos Aires, a Jewish Agency spokesman said. The agency's four emissaries did not work in the building, but elsewhere in the city.

There are currently 260,000 Jews in Argentina, 200,000 of them in Buenos Aires.

In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister

Shimon Peres indicated he believes the explosion was the work of Moslem terrorists. "We know who the strings lead to," Peres told Israel Television. "We will have to make a supreme effort to catch these terrible people."

A PLO official in Argentina denounced the blast. "We deeply lament this attack against peace," said Suja Alkuel, who represents the PLO in Buenos Aires.

Visiting US Secretary of State Warren Christopher called the explosion "a reminder that, despite the glowing prospects, there are still the enemies of peace around the world, not only here in the Middle East."

The Foreign Ministry opened special direct lines to its Buenos Aires embassy to receive public inquiries for details about family members there.

Ambassador to Argentina Yitzhak Aviram and embassy staff members immediately headed for the site of the explosion and are maintaining a constant presence there.

The Home Front Command's rescue unit is to fly to Buenos Aires early this morning. The members of the unit are trained in disaster rescues and use special heavy equipment to remove victims from rubble. Police experts in criminal identification will also be traveling with the team, it was reported.

In Buenos Aires, rescue workers climbed through the pile of rubble, all that remained of the building. Dozens of volunteers passed oxygen masks to workers climbing through pieces of masonry and steel, searching for survivors. Many shocked bystanders sobbed uncontrollably.

"We need more oxygen! Get us oxygen!" rescue workers screamed. Others, noting the strong smell of natural gas, urged bystanders not to light matches for fear of causing another explosion.

Shards of metal and glass littered the street. Alongside one burned-out car were at least two bodies, covered hastily with bed sheets and foam gym mats. "One rescue worker warned people nearby, 'Watch where you walk. Those are bodies,'" Nicolas Wolde, 56, who works in an office next door to the destroyed building, told the Associated Press he "felt a huge bomb."

### Hizbullah revenge aimed at easy targets overseas

ANALYSIS  
ALON PINKAS

THE bombing of the Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, whether directly or indirectly linked to Hizbullah (and by extension, to Iran), should be viewed as the long-anticipated revenge for the May abduction of Mustafa Dirani and the June air strike on the Hizbullah training camp in Ein Dardara in Lebanon.

Since the kidnapping of Dirani and the Ein Dardara strike, which killed 40 Hizbullah activists, security circles in Israel were expecting a revenge attack abroad. Israeli facilities and offices around the world were put on varying degrees of alert and security precautions were tightened. It is safe to assume that these actions prevented other attacks, or dissuaded potential attackers from making any attempts.

But even in countries and capitals considered by the General Security Service and the Mossad to be "high terror risks," Israel cannot secure local Jewish institutions. Hundreds of schools or offices, in places such as Argentina, are easy targets. Israeli security officials relay warnings of possible attacks to their counterparts abroad, but even the most stringent precautions cannot guarantee full-proof success.

The smoking gun, if one is ever found, will likely lead to Hizbullah, which was probably aided by local branches of radical Islamic organizations or by paid professionals.

Since terror's heyday in the early 1970s, there has been a decline in terror attempts against Israeli targets around the world. This is partly due to the breakdown of terror networks previously supported by the Soviet Union.

Iran, despite its efforts, is not a viable replacement, and its support of extremist Islamic organizations throughout the world is far from being an effective tool of foreign policy. Its influence on them is somewhat exaggerated, given the indigenous characteristics of these organizations in places as different as Algeria and Argentina.

The only effective way to prevent more attacks is enhanced cooperation between intelligence organizations, based on a shared perception of the threat. That, and a continued, relentless war against Hizbullah.

## Rubinstein: Peace prospects very good

DAVID MAKOVSKY and LIAT COLLINS

ISRAELI and Jordanian negotiators shook hands publicly across the table in an Arava tent yesterday, heralding peace and pledging to change decades of alternating hostility and quiet coordination into prospering bilateral cooperation.

"The prospects for peace are very good," chief Israeli negotiator Elyakim Rubinstein told the opening session, held at Ein Avrona, about a dozen kilometers north of Eilat and Akaba. Rubinstein emphasized the importance Israel attaches to the Hashemite kingdom, indicating the accord with the PLO does not preclude the need for strong ties with Jordan.

Chief Jordanian negotiator Fayez Tarawneh said Jordan's goal is also a peace treaty. "It is our expectation that the satisfactory results of the negotiations and accepted agreements will culminate in a treaty of peace that delineates carefully our rights and duties under conditions of peace," Tarawneh said.

The opening ceremony was marked by a convivial atmosphere, as Tarawneh and Rubinstein shook hands several times for the cameras. The state television networks of both countries assisted one another in beaming the ceremony home to both

publics. Yesterday's session marks the first time the two countries' representatives have met publicly along their common border. There have been secret top-level meetings for decades, amid quiet coordination on such issues as border infiltration. Since 1991, the two sides have held peace talks in Washington. Last year following the Israel-PLO accord they signed an overall substantive agenda, and last month deepened their understanding in specific fields.

After the opening session, the sides broke up into three panels dealing with border demarcation, water, and security.

Jordanian officials made clear they want a satisfactory resolution to existing disputes over borders and water. Jordan charges that Israel occupies about 380 sq.km. of Jordanian land in the Arava, as well as a small patch captured in 1948, where the Yarmouk and Jordan rivers meet.

Jordan also wants a redistribution of water sources, charging that Israel has been diverting water for decades in excess of its quota as established by a US-brokered accord in the 1950s.

Israel has called for finding joint

(Continued on Page 2)



Jordanian delegation head Fayez Tarawneh looks on as his Israeli counterpart Elyakim Rubinstein turns to face the camera while sitting on opposite sides of the negotiating table yesterday. (Reuters)

### A warm-up act

LIAT COLLINS

EIN AVRONA

IT was the perfect setting for the event: a huge, air-conditioned tent, set up exactly on the border, surrounded by minefields. In Ein Avrona, just north of Eilat and Akaba, the Jordanian-Israeli talks got under way yesterday in a convivial atmosphere.

Although the scores of foreign journalists called the event "historic" in several languages, it lacked the mark of a truly great meeting. There were flowers, but no flags, on the long table at which the two delegations sat, each on their own side of the border. Journalists from both sides were ushered in briefly and separately.

The Jordanians asked that the soft drinks be served in containers without Hebrew writing, though at least one senior Jordanian official had a copy of a Hebrew daily among his notes, and several chatted with Israeli journalists about the weather.

Fayez Tarawneh, head of the Jordanian delegation, looked relaxed and smiled as he clasped the hand of his Israeli counterpart, Elyakim Rubinstein, for the umpteenth "photo opportunity."

The participants, however, must have felt like the warm-up act for a big-name band. Despite the constant clicking of cameras yesterday, the

(Continued on Page 2)

### Ben-Porat: Party-funding laws are being followed

EVELYN GORDON

PARTY-FUNDING laws are being given increased respect by all the parties, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said yesterday.

She was speaking at a press conference in the Knesset in honor of two reports released yesterday - one on the national parties' past year of activity, and one on the recent municipal elections. This is the first time there has ever been a comptroller's report on local elections.

"[The parties] try hard," Ben-Porat said. "Sometimes there are failures. Sometimes the task is virtually impossible, when they are [trying] to control numerous branches... But I think they take what I say very seriously."

On the national level, only two parties - Shas and Mapam - were not given a clean bill of health, and even these two were docked only one month's funding, instead of the maximum three months' funding. In Shas's case, this came to NIS 269,370, while in Mapam's case, it came to NIS 120,000.

"[The fine] reflects the severity of the violations," Ben-Porat said. "They weren't that severe."

In addition, a NIS 3 million fine imposed on Shas in last year's report was reduced to NIS 1.575m., due largely, Ben-Porat said, to Shas's efforts to clean up its act.

"Shas has now chosen a better and more correct path," she said.

With regard to the municipal elections, Ben-Porat said she tried to be lenient, because the law regulating party funding in these elections was passed only four months before they took place. This left the parties with little time to prepare. Furthermore, she noted, many had no experience in keeping books.

Thus, she decided to accept all of the many late reports which were submitted, though those who received state funding were docked 3% for the delay.

However, 52 of the 675 local lists did not submit reports at all, including 30 who received funding from the state. These 30 are therefore obligated to return all the money, she said.

Of those who did submit reports, 545 were found to be clean, while only 78 were guilty of violations. In the latter category, the most noteworthy were Ehud Olmert's United Jerusalem, Teddy Kolek's One Jerusalem and Roni Milo's Tel Aviv list, all of whom were found guilty of exceeding spending limits.

In addition to the local lists, 10

national parties submitted reports for the municipal elections. Six were given a clean bill of health - Likud, UTI, Meretz, Shas, Moledet and the Democratic Arab Party. Though the first four were guilty of some minor violations, they were not severe enough to justify a negative report, the comptroller said.

Four parties, however - Labor, Tsomet, NRP and Hadash - were found guilty of sufficiently grave violations to merit fines, though none was given anything close to the maximum penalty of 15% of their party funding. Labor was docked NIS 750,000, the NRP NIS 75,000, Tsomet NIS 70,000 and Hadash NIS 50,000.

In response to a question by Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss, Ben-Porat also expressed her opinion that the municipal elections should remain separate from the national ones.

Weiss had suggested combining them, both to save money and to increase voter turnout. Only 47% of the public vote in municipal elections, he noted, while 75% vote in national elections.

However, Ben-Porat said that campaign strategies often differ widely between the local and national levels. It might therefore be difficult, she said, for the parties to conduct both campaigns at once.

Full reports, Page 3

### Jerusalem's Arab affairs adviser quits

BILL HUTMAN

AMIR Cheshin, the Jerusalem Municipality's outspoken adviser on Arab affairs, has decided to resign, and warned yesterday that the city will be redivided if its policy towards its Arab residents is not immediately changed.

"I am very worried about the present situation," Cheshin declared. "If something is not done very quickly to improve the services and treatment of Arab residents, the results will be disastrous," he said.

Cheshin met on Friday with Mayor Ehud Olmert and told him he was ready to step down, a source close to the mayor said.

Olmert, who has not hidden his disapproval of the policies advocated by Cheshin, "did not try to convince him to stay," the source said.

A formal announcement of the resignation will come after details of his retirement compensation are worked out, the source added.

Olmert had not dismissed Cheshin or asked him to resign until now, out of concern he would lose his connections to the city's Arab sector.

But the mayor has been interviewing other candidates for the post, the source pointed out, and a replacement would be found by the end of the month.

It will likely be one of several senior General Security Service offi-

cers under consideration, the source said.

In a telephone interview, Cheshin confirmed that he was stepping down. "I have nothing personal against Olmert. Professionally, I gained much respect for him over time," Cheshin said.

"At first I was upset when he did not consult with me. But then I saw that it was nothing personal, but just his way of working. It was not as if he was consulting someone else instead of me," Cheshin said.

"I think [Olmert] is taking a healthy stance towards the Arab residents, stating that he will bring the services given to the Arab population up to par with those of the Jewish population," he said, adding, however, that much more was needed, "to preserve the unity of the city."

Greater political power must be given to the city's Arab residents, by setting up more community councils in Arab neighborhoods, Cheshin said.

"If we had acted differently 27 years ago [when the city was reunified], then we would not be in the position we are today," said Cheshin, indirectly criticizing former mayor Teddy Kolek's eastern Jerusalem policy.

Kolek appointed Cheshin "adviser on East Jerusalem affairs," in 1984.

Cheshin later changed the name of the post, on grounds the majority in eastern Jerusalem were Jews, whom he did not serve.

Cheshin quickly gained a reputation for speaking his mind, even to right-wing leaders who charged Arabs were being allowed to build illegally and move into the city without permits.

He maintained that the state and local governments discriminated against Jerusalem's Arab residents by not insulating them building permits and trying to curb their growth, in an effort to strengthen Israel's hold on the city.

Cheshin's Jaffa Road office had for years been the major address for Arab residents who had troubles dealing with the Israeli authorities, as well as with the municipal bureaucracy.

But with Olmert's election in November, it quickly became apparent to Arab residents that Cheshin carried the same weight at City Hall.

"I've become tired and am ready for a change," said Cheshin, adding he hoped to "take advantage of his connections" in the Arab world to set up a business, but that he had no specific immediate plans.



# Christopher urges Assad to join peace drive

News agencies

AN upbeat Secretary of State Warren Christopher declared yesterday that the Arab-Israeli conflict is drawing to a close, but he still has to show progress on the Syrian front in his latest Middle East peace mission.

"This is a situation in which the peace must be comprehensive in order to be satisfactory," Christopher said in a plea to President Hafez Assad to join other Arab leaders as they move toward a settlement with Israel. "There are new opportunities here."

He is to make that appeal directly to Assad in Damascus today. "Peace is possible and we must grasp that opportunity as firmly as possible," Christopher said at a joint news conference in Jerusalem yesterday with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

Habitually cautious, Christopher was almost ebullient in talking to reporters after a separate meeting with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. "The Arab-Israeli conflict, one of the most longstanding and intractable conflicts of this century, is drawing to an end," he said.

Peres called Christopher's current, week-long peace mission the most important of the four he has undertaken. Tomorrow Christopher is to join negotiations between Israel and Jordan near the Dead Sea, and on Thursday he is due to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Rabin, meanwhile, made it clear he would not make the commitment until Assad took the first step.

"What we are seeking with Syria is peace and security, and we cannot deal with the question of a withdrawal on the Golan Heights or territorial concessions except in a context of the meaning of peace, the timetable and



Rabin and Christopher speak to the press: "There are new opportunities here."

(Brian Hender)

the interfacing between the normalization of relations and the withdrawal on which it will be agreed," the prime minister said. "The next seven days here in

the Middle East will be extremely important for the peace process," Christopher said while posing for pictures with Peres. "We have the possibility of regis-

tering some progress." Syria said yesterday it would welcome any "constructive" proposals that could help rescue its peace talks with Israel from their

current impasse. "But this should not be on the account of Arab land rights and sovereignty," state-run Radio Damascus said.

## Gov't to sponsor bill preventing PLO activity in Israel

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE cabinet, amid some opposition, decided yesterday to propose legislation that would ban PLO political activity throughout Israel, including Jerusalem, unless special approval is given.

Tourism Minister Uzi Baram, Environment Minister Yossi Sarid and Absorption Minister Yair Tzaban opposed the bill outright, while Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein and Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni abstained.

Since the law would include a governmental waiver, it remains unclear whether PLO activity at the Orient House in eastern Jerusalem, for example, would be affected. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres wrote a letter to the late Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Jorgan Holst last October, pledging to maintain existing Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem and even "encourage them."

Government officials have said that the Orient House can operate, as long as it does not involve itself in matters pertaining to the Palestinian Authority, which according to the Israel-PLO accord must be run from Gaza or Jericho.

Justice Minister David Liba'i defended the bill, which was drafted by Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair. After the cabinet meeting, Liba'i said, "it is customary that foreigners do not engage in activity in another country's terri-

tory without the permission of a host country."

"Therefore political activity that is undertaken on behalf of the Palestinian Authority or the PLO, and I emphasize this, will not happen without permission."

A spokesman for the Orient House, Hatem Abdul Qader, denied that the institution's activities were connected to the Palestinian Authority.

"Our activities are connected to the [former] Palestinian team to peace talks and not to the autonomy [authority]," Qader said. "Israel must know that our activities here started before the Israel-PLO agreement and will continue to be held here."

Sarid opposed the move, saying "there is no debate within the government on the status of Jerusalem, nor is there a debate that Palestinian institutions should be run from the autonomous areas."

"The question remains if legislation, which is designed to help, will not make things worse and raise the issue of Jerusalem now." Palestinian activist Hanan Ashrawi, who works from the Orient House, said she wanted to withhold definitive comment until she saw the wording of the proposed legislation. At the same time, she voiced concern that such a bill could "create hostility" and harm the peace process.

### Marzel convicted of illegal weapons charge

HERB KEINON

BARUCH Marzel, the former Kach leader currently under administrative detention, was convicted yesterday by the Jerusalem Magistrates Court of illegally carrying a weapon in Hebron two years ago. He was given a seven-month suspended sentence.

In 1992, Marzel was ordered by the Hebron area army commander to turn in his gun, and failed to do so. The weapon was later confiscated. Judge Ya'acov Tzaban convicted Marzel, although he said the IDF commander's actions were "astounding."

"The accused had a permit for a weapon that was taken away from him by the Hebron area commander," the judge wrote in his decision. "The same commander requested a few days earlier that the accused carry a weapon because of threats to his life."

Nevertheless, Tzaban said, the commander's actions were legal, and Marzel should have turned in his weapon.

### Rabin: Israel won't change procedures at Erez

ALON PINKAS

ISRAEL will not change the procedures by which Palestinians are granted work permits, and the Erez checkpoint will continue admitting Palestinian laborers according to their security clearance, said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin after yesterday's cabinet meeting.

The closure of the Gaza Strip will continue indefinitely, following riots Sunday morning which left two Palestinians dead and dozens of Arabs and Israelis wounded. The Erez checkpoint incident was the first time Palestinian policemen and IDF troops exchanged fire. Border Police Sgt.-Maj. Jacques Attias remains in critical condition in Ashkelon's Barzilai Hospital.

Yesterday, the Erez checkpoint was quiet, except for a meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian Coordination and Cooperation Committee, headed by Brigadier-Generals Yomtov Samia and Dudi Gazit on the Israeli side, and Ziad Atrash on the Palestinian. The committee began discussing ways to improve coordination on the regulation of Palestinian laborers seeking employment in Israel.

"The considerations underlying permit granting are above all concerned with the security risk that a certain individual may pose. We will not change these procedures," said Rabin. He was quoted as telling the security cabinet that a senior Palestinian security official had told PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that the restraint demonstrated by the IDF soldiers had prevented a bloodbath at the checkpoint.

The cabinet, sitting as the ministerial security committee, was yesterday briefed by army officers including Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Ehud Barak and General Security Service officials on the riots. Police Minister Moshe Shalev reported that there is proof linking Hamas to the riot.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid indirectly criticized Barak for putting all the blame on the shoulders of the Palestinian Police.

"The Palestinian Police should not be identified with the incident," Sarid was quoted as saying. "They obviously had problems, but it was difficult enough to shoot at a crowd of Palestinians. So far, the level of cooperation with them has been satisfactory."

Security officials said Hamas did not organize the riot, which was spontaneously motivated by economic pressures, but incited the masses and spurred the violence.

Shalev said Israel would keep Gaza sealed until the Palestinian Police is able to keep the situation under control.

Sufian Abu Zayde, a PLO official in Gaza, agreed with Shalev that the Palestinian forces bore much of the responsibility for the incident, mainly because of inexperience.

Abu Zayde demanded that Israel ease security checks for workers to cut down on the waiting time and let anyone over 30 pass through Erez unhindered.

IDF officers said they have warned previously that the 45 percent unemployment rate in the Gaza Strip, coupled with tensions resulting from closures imposed on the strip and the decline in the number of work permits granted by Israel, was bound to facilitate violence at some point.

In an attempted show of strength, Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups yesterday tried to impose a two-day strike in Gaza to protest the situation, but most Palestinian merchants opened their shops after Palestinian police removed roadblocks of burning tires and boulders set up by militants.

"We don't force people to open the shops, and we don't allow anybody to force people to close the shops," said Nabil Shaath, planning minister in the self-rule government. "I think this should be very clear to everybody. We have a violent aspect which is forcing people to do something they do not want."

## Coalition easily defeats no-confidence bid on entry of Ma'alot terrorists to Gaza

DAN IZENBERG

THE coalition yesterday handily defeated a no-confidence motion by the National Religious Party and Tsomet on the government's failure to apprehend and put on trial two of the planners of the 1974 Ma'alot hostage seizure in which 21 schoolchildren were killed.

The vote was 56 to 44 in favor of the government. Yit'ud MKs Gonen Segev and Alex Goldfarb voted with the coalition, while Esther Salmovitz voted with the opposition. The six Shas MKs did not attend the vote.

Rafael Eitan (Tsomet) said the decision to let the terrorists leave Gaza unharmed "constitutes an act and conduct which has no logic, explanation or excuse to justify the stupidity, the humiliation to the families of the victims and desecration of the memory of boys and girls who were killed only because they belong to the Jewish people. This is the nadir in the government's conduct and its attitude toward the sensibilities of the people, the national honor and our image abroad."

He said the decision to let the terrorists go was testimony to the government's incapacity to lead. "In addition, [Sunday's] events at the Erez Junction, constitute a powerful expression of the weakness, impotence, confusion and

embarrassment of the government," he continued. "It was a war. A country was scared off by a inflamed mob, thereby jeopardizing life and property."

Deputy Defense Minister Mordechai Gur, who served as chief of general staff during the Ma'alot attack, said he would never forget the incident but that the memories should not obstruct the search for a future of peace. "In the same spirit of responsibility for the families of Ma'alot, Avivim and many other places in the country, in my opinion and the opinion of the government we must move forward toward peace, despite all the problems it entails," he said.

Gur said the soldiers at Erez junction were faced with a serious dilemma on Sunday. "It's a good thing the battalion and brigadecommanders, who were prepared in advance, relieved the soldiers of the need to make their own decisions, and gave them orders," said Gur. "However, the officers faced a horrible dilemma - whether or not to shoot at thousands of people who were unarmed but threatened the soldiers' lives. The commanders made the right decision, even though they took the hard route, not the honorable one but the correct one."

### Aloni denies Voice of Palestine beamed anti-Israel broadcasts

DAN IZENBERG

COMMUNICATIONS Minister Shulamit Aloni yesterday denied allegations that the Voice of Palestine had beamed inflammatory and inciteful anti-Israel broadcasts to fan the flames during Sunday's riots at Erez junction.

Responding to a motion in the Knesset plenum, Aloni said she had asked a unit specializing in Arab-language broadcasts to

translate the programs beamed during the riots. The unit found that the broadcasters did not use inciteful language and that the inflammatory words came from Palestinians in the field, who were interviewed by Voice of Palestine reporters, said Aloni.

Zevulun Hammer (NRP), who

submitted the motion, accused the government of handing the Palestinians "an incitement and propaganda station on a silver platter."

Hammer also blamed the government for handing over a frequency belonging to Israel Radio's Arabic language programs "which broadcasts to millions of Arabic-speakers in Israel and throughout the world."

### WARM-UP ACT

should and will be permanent," said Rubinstein. "We are at a very warm spot of [our] two countries; the temperature is high. It is only natural to express the hope that the Israel-Jordanian peaceful relations will be warm forever."

Rubinstein also said he hoped that future joint projects would turn "the Dead Sea into the Sea of Life, and the [Jordan Rift] valley into a valley of peace."

Tarawneh said: "It is our hope that our location, which bears testimony to the imperatives of geographical proximity and interdependence, will inspire us to arrive at tangible results."

The journalists covering the talks on both sides of the border had to contend with more than the hazards of flying insects and heat. They were frequently warned about the mines

left in the area since the armistice lines were drawn up in 1948.

"I want to remind you to stay only in the marked area," said Yossi Gal, head of the Foreign Ministry's press relations department. "There's simply life-threatening danger in looking for unique camera angles."

While the shadow of the Buenos Aires attack hung over the Israeli delegation, the Jordanians demonstrated a far greater openness than at the morning meeting. This time, journalists and officials from both sides mingled freely distinguishable only by the language printed on their identity tags.

"Meeting like this in the open air makes it bit like a picnic. There is a very good atmosphere," said a senior official from the Jordanian information office.

Nonetheless, like his competitors he refused to give his name or have his photo taken.

### PEACE

Tarawneh reiterated Rubinstein's statement, saying the talks had been "very positive." He did not condemn the terror attack until questioned by Israeli journalists. He then said: "Jordan is categorically against all acts of aggression, particularly against innocent civilians."

Although all the questions by Jordanian journalists concerned "Israeli occupation" and "theft of water," Rubinstein told *The Jerusalem Post* he did not find they reflected the

attitude of the Jordanian leadership. Rubinstein said he felt the fact Tarawneh had not immediately condemned the attack outright stemmed from his not realizing it was expected.

"The king has always condemned terror outright," Rubinstein added.

Meanwhile, PLO chairman Yasser Arafat welcomed yesterday's meeting, saying, "We appreciate and we look positively to these meetings, not only with the Jordanians. We have next with the Lebanese and the same with the Syrians, so we can have a peaceful, lasting solution."

In deep sorrow we announce the death of my wife, our mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister

**FRANCES VANSON** ז"ל

née Hirsch  
Sprottau - London - Jerusalem

The funeral will take place today, July 19, 1994  
(11 Av 5754), at 11 a.m., leaving from the Sanhedria  
Funeral Parlor for Har Hamenuhot.

Husband: **Manfred Vanson**

Daughters: **Dorothea and Yigal Shefer**

**Esther and Nathan Rosenfeld**

**Ruth and Eliezer Shamir**

Sisters: **Hanna Loewenthal, Tel Aviv**

**Eise Felbusch, Ukiah, Cal.**

Grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Shiva at 8-B Nili St., Kiryat Shmuel, Jerusalem

To Myrna Isaacson and Family

We share in your sorrow  
on the passing of your

**Mother** ז"ל

The Staff of Goldfine/ Geri



**Wolf Foundation**

to promote science and art for the benefit of mankind

announces with deep sorrow, and mourns the death of

**ERNESTO THALHEIMER** ז"ל

Member of the Board of Trustees

who passed away in Porto Alegre, Brazil on July 16, 1994

and shares the grief of the family.

Members of the Council of the Wolf Foundation

**Zeev Schieler** - Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**Yaron Gruder** - Director General

We mourn the passing of

**EDIE JOFFE**

Mother, Grandmother, Great-grandmother.

The funeral will take place at the Savyon Cemetery,  
on Tuesday, July 19, 1994, at 4:00 p.m.

**Myrna and Gil Goldfine**

**Irwin and Susan Joffe**

Grandchildren: **Kevin, Lisa, Noa, Alexandra**

Great-grandchildren: **Imri, Idan, Tom, Achinoam**



# Ben-Porat: Municipal election law needs overhaul

EVELYN GORDON

THE first comptroller's report on the municipal elections revealed several problems in the law which the Knesset must address, State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat said yesterday.

One of the most severe is that the law imposes a uniform ceiling on expenses, whether or not the party is running a candidate for mayor as well as for city council.

"It's reasonable to assume that [a party] competing for the mayoralty has more expenses," she said in the report released yesterday. "Some parties said they simply couldn't meet this limit if they competed for the mayoralty."

For this reason, she said, she imposed relatively mild sanctions on local party branches that did violate the limit for this reason. Of these, the most notable examples were Ehud Olmert's United Jerusalem faction, Teddy Kolek's One Jerusalem and Roni Milo's independent list.

Olmert exceeded permissible expenses by a whopping 71%, or NIS 2.88 million, and was consequently docked 8% of the funding he is eligible to receive from the state. The maximum fine is 15% of one's state funding. Milo overspent by 44%, or NIS 1.56m., and was docked 5%; Kolek overspent by only 7%, or NIS 594,000, but was also docked 5%. However, Kolek's list actually spent more than either Olmert's or Milo's: NIS 8.67m., compared with NIS 6.92m. and NIS 5.10m., respectively. The reason Kolek's overspending was so much less is that spending limits are determined by a faction's power in the municipality either before or after the elections — the higher of the two. Thus Kolek could legally spend up to NIS 8.07m., while Olmert could legally spend only half that sum: NIS 4.04m.

Another problem discovered by the comptroller is that by law, any local list which does not get a clean report from her is automatically deprived of all state funding for the local elections. In many cases, Ben-Porat said, the irregularities she discovered were so minor that they did not deserve such



State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat presents her report on the funding of last year's municipal elections to Knesset Speaker Shevah Weiss yesterday.

a harsh penalty. Consequently, she felt compelled to give parties with very minor violations clean reports.

On the national level, this was true of the Likud, UTI, Meretz and Shas. Some of these parties' local lists failed to report "an extremely small number" of their election ads to the mother parties, which therefore did not register them in their books. But since the amount of money involved was so small — less than 1% of the parties' total expenses — and since the parties made a real effort to correct the problem, she decided to give them a clean report.

Conversely, since a clean financial report is the only criteria for state funding, three local factions which spent nothing in the last elections were nevertheless eligible for such funding, she noted.

Another problem was an amendment limiting private contributions to only NIS 5,000. Many local factions have huge deficits, Ben-Porat said, and this limit makes it almost impossible for them to repay their debts.

"The legislature should turn its attention to this and find a suitable solution," she reported.

Finally, Ben-Porat noted that many local parties receive more

state funding than they use in the election. The law says they can keep the excess to cover ongoing expenses, but in many cases, these local parties do not have any expenses between elections.

"In such cases, non-negligible sums, whose source is the state Treasury, are likely to remain in private hands," the report said.

The report cited four national parties — Labor, Tsomet, NRP and Hadash — who were guilty of serious violations. In all four cases, the national party's books did not reflect local branches' real expenses for election propaganda. They also failed to reflect the in-

come and expenses of certain local factions and/or non-profit organizations, and in Labor's case, of a number of conferences. Finally, they violated the prohibition against receiving contributions from local organizations.

With respect to Labor, the comptroller found so much data lacking that she could not determine whether it kept within either its income or outlay limit. With Tsomet and Hadash, she could not determine whether they kept to their income limits.

However, Ben-Porat did not impose the maximum fine of 15% on any of the four. Labor was

fined NIS 750,000, while the maximum would have been NIS 3.63m.; Tsomet was fined NIS 70,000 out of a maximum of NIS 312,000; NRP was fined NIS 75,000 out of a maximum of NIS 1.34m.; Hadash was fined NIS 50,000 out of a maximum of NIS 293,000.

There were also several cases where parties in power in a locality used city funds to finance their election campaigns. While this is a violation of the law against receiving contributions from local organizations, Ben-Porat said, she had never warned the parties of this, and therefore did not punish them for it.

The report also listed four national parties that received more state funding than they were entitled to. Tsomet therefore owes the state NIS 2.32m., Moledet owes NIS 1.63m., Shas owes NIS 218,000 and the DAP owes NIS 759,000. By law, Knesset speaker Shevah Weiss must determine a repayment schedule for these parties.

For the first time, the comptroller also listed contributors who gave more than NIS 25,000 to the parties — including those who gave substantial sums to more than one local or national party. Double contributions do not necessarily mean a person is trying to buy friendship with whatever party wins power, Ben-Porat noted; sometimes, more than one party is ideologically compatible. Nevertheless, such contributions "are likely to arouse questions as to the donors' intentions," the report stated.

Many of those who gave double contributions were leading businessmen. Shlomo Eliahu, Alfred Akroff, Yossi Hackney, David Azrieli, Ron Lauder, Yuli Ofer and Eliezer Fishman were among those who gave donations in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, and in some cases, in other cities as well.

Those who gave to both Labor and Likud nationally included Zvi Cohen, Ofer, Yochi Schneider, Eliahu and Ezra Kabtan. Those who gave to both Olmert's and Kolek's campaigns in Jerusalem included Alfred Akroff, Azrieli and Yitzhak Pitzker.

## Report will ease Shas's worries

EVELYN GORDON

SHAS' financial worries will be eased by the latest state comptroller's report on party funding, which State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat decided to cut a NIS 1 million fine imposed last year almost in half.

The fine was imposed because of a deal made between Shas and Labor in the 1989 Histadrut elections, in which Labor paid Shas NIS 1.5m. to support Labor's candidates. At the time, this entailed a mandatory repayment equal to twice the sum of the illegal contribution — in this case, NIS 3m.

In January, however, the Knesset amended the law to give the comptroller discretion in imposing fines. Ben-Porat therefore reconsidered the matter, and decided Shas should be forced to repay only NIS 1.575m. — the principal plus a NIS 75,000 fine.

However, the party is still suffering for its past misdeeds. Within the period covered by the current report, but before the publication of the comptroller's 1993 report, Shas received two additional payments from Labor for the 1989 deal: NIS 800,000, which was given directly to the party, and NIS 611,460 which was transferred to Shas's educational network, El Hama'ayan.

Ben-Porat decided not to demand repayment of the latter sum, since it is being used for "cultural activities" rather than direct party expenses. However, she ruled, the NIS 800,000 given the party must be returned, along with a NIS 75,000 fine.

Shas is also one of only two parties fined this year for keeping incomplete records of its income and expenses. The other was Mapam, which was also found guilty of keeping improper records of the financial activities of its local branches and of not recording the expenses involved in maintaining the local branches in its books. (A separate accounting was done for each of the three components of the Meretz Party: the CRM, Mapam and Shimi.)

In both cases, however, Ben-Porat decided to fine the parties only one month's funding, instead of the maximum of three months' funding. In Mapam's case, this comes to NIS 120,000, and in Shas' case, to NIS 269,370.

The other 10 parties checked all received a clean bill of health. "Tsomet, which was one of them, said afterwards in a statement that this was proof that accusations of financial irregularities made by the breakaway Yitad faction were utterly baseless."

## Museums provide a break from the summer heat

SUMMER vacation offers an ideal opportunity to pack up the kids and take them out for some educational fun at any of the country's museums.

Many museums offer special programs and activities during the summer months, in addition to their regular offerings. Museum-based summer camps are already in full swing or nearing their end, but museums still offer plenty of other activities.

Here is a small sampling of the programs offered by museums throughout the country:

The National Museum of Science, located in the old Technion building on Rehov Shmaryahu Levin in Haifa's Hadar Hacarmel quarter, offers special summer programs under the name "A Significant Afternoon: Playing Science." Aimed at children and families, the activities take place between 4:00 and 7:00 p.m. today, next Tuesday, and Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of the first two weeks of August.

Participants can join special hands-on activities revolving around mirrors, voice, water and balloons. On those same days, youngsters and their parents can hear science-based stories in special story hours at 4:30 p.m.

The entrance fee (NIS 8 for children three and up, NIS 12 for adults and NIS 25 for a family of four) includes admission to the regular exhibitions — mechanical puzzles and telecommunications — are two of the current offerings — and the special afternoon activities.

The Eretz Israel Museum in Ramat Aviv hosts scores of summer camp groups during July and August, but does not offer any special activities for individuals and families beyond the regular exhibitions and the Planetarium.

The museum is open Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., Wednesdays between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., and Saturdays between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. (closed Fridays). Admission costs NIS 8 per child, and NIS 10 per adult. Add NIS 7 for a ticket to the Planetarium, where daily screenings alternate between two laser-enhanced films: one called Travel to the Galaxy, and the other



SUMMER SCENE  
CARL SCHRAG

er about UFOs.

The Air Force Museum at Hatzorim does not have any special programs planned for the summer, but its outdoor exhibition of 60 airplanes of all shapes and sizes is always enough to enthrall many children.

The museum is open daily between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Fridays until 1:00 p.m., and closed Saturdays. Admission (NIS 5 for children up to age 13, and NIS 13 for adults) includes guided tours that can last between one and two hours, plus the opportunity to view a variety of short films screened aboard a refurbished Boeing 707.

The Bloomfield Science Museum, located on Givat Ram in Jerusalem, has a special exhibition called "About Faces" on loan from the US, which will open on Thursday for a three-month run. Focusing on the components that comprise a face, the exhibition includes a variety of hands-on activities that are suited equally to children and adults.

The museum is open Sunday through Thursday from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Admission: NIS 10 per person, or NIS 36 for a family. Add NIS 6 per person for the About Faces exhibition.

The Ayalon Institute Museum, located at Kibbutz Hill in Rehovot, is the site where a clandestine Haganah effort to build armaments was waged from 1945-1948. Living quarters designed to appear as a kibbutz were constructed above the underground plant. Visiting hours are Sunday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. (until 6 p.m. on Mondays) and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## MK Shapira re-hospitalized

JUDY SIEGEL

AGUDAT Yisrael MK Avraham Shapira was being treated for pulmonary edema at Tel Aviv's Ichilov Hospital yesterday, the day he had been due to return to the Knesset.

A week ago, he was discharged from Sheba Hospital after his foot was amputated due to complications from diabetes.

Ichilov Hospital sources said Shapira, admitted to the intensive-care unit on Saturday night due to breathing difficulties, "was stabilizing."

Pulmonary edema is the buildup of fluid in the lung tissues, and

is usually connected with a heart problem. Hospital sources would not disclose the cause of the edema or say when he would be discharged, but did note that his problem had no connection to the amputation.

However, sources close to the family denied there was any heart problem, and said Shapira's breathing difficulties were the result of digestive problems he has had over the few days.

"He fasted partially on Tisha be'Av," said his spokesman. "He should be sent home in a few days."

## Ramon continues using Histadrut as a funnel for party funds

BACKGROUND  
MICHAEL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut is used as a channel to transfer funds — illegally — to political parties. Despite the fact the state comptroller has pointed this out in her last two reports — the second of which was published yesterday — the new Histadrut leadership, headed by the Ram faction, continues to transfer funds to parties by means of what is known as the "political tax."

The political tax, totaling some NIS 46 million last year, is allocated to the Histadrut's factions according to their relative power in the organization. The funds are intended for workers' struggles and social causes which the Histadrut is committed to, but in fact nobody knows how it is used by the parties' leaderships.

In the previous State Comptroller's Report, Shas was sharply rebuked and heavily fined for receiving funds from Labor via the Histadrut, although Shas did not have a Histadrut faction, nor was it represented in the Histadrut in any way. Transferring the enormous sum of money — which the comptroller called "buying power for money" — was part of a deal between Labor's leadership and Shas's Rabbi Ovadia Yosef, to ensure that Shas's Histadrut members voted for Labor in the Histadrut elections.

Yesterday's comptroller's report exposes the same practice, which apparently prevailed in the Histadrut under Labor's leadership, and fined Shas again. But what is worse, according to Histadrut sources, is that the Histadrut's new leadership, elected this May, appears to be continuing on the same lines as its predecessor.

According to the agreement among the factions forming Ram, Shimi is to receive 3% of the political tax funds to be paid Ram. On the basis of Ram's share, it stands to receive an annual NIS 20 million in political taxes, which leaves Shimi with NIS 600,000. The only thing is, Shimi is not a faction in the Histadrut.

Ram is made up of Ramon's faction and Meretz, which consists, in the Histadrut, of the Citizens Rights Movement and Mapam. Shimi did not run in the elections and is not represented in the Histadrut, although, paradoxically, one of its representatives ran with the Likud list.

New Histadrut Secretary-General Haim Ramon, who is threatening to dismiss many workers due to "lack of funds" and has already cut down on workers' wages, newspapers, lunches, and other perks, has so far made no move to cancel the exorbitant political tax.

The workers' committee at the Histadrut headquarters building in Tel Aviv last week called on Ramon to save the jobs of hundreds of workers in danger of being fired, by stopping the transfer of tens of millions of shekels to the parties as political tax. Workers' committee member Aharon Handelman noted that the parties already receive generous financial allocations from the state budget, without having to squeeze dry the Histadrut's income as well.

Moreover, the political tax, an innovation of the last two decades, is not mentioned in the Histadrut's constitution or regulations and therefore does not require a constitutional change to be abolished.

According to Histadrut regulations, its controller is to supervise the use of funds allotted from membership fees to the house factions and to see to it they are used for workers' causes and for the Histadrut elections. However, Handelman notes, no regulation or executive bureau decision says the funds should be transferred to the political parties.

In reality, the Histadrut controller failed to supervise the spending of these funds and only checked the reports submitted to him by the various Histadrut factions. The controller's staff did not check whether the factions' account books matched their reports.

Handelman pointed out yesterday that "if the Histadrut leadership forbids passing funds to parties, it can prevent parties or organizations which have nothing to do with the workers or their causes from running to the Hista-

drut elections and thus gaining power for political purposes."

Ramon's spokeswoman Mira Geshel said yesterday that the Histadrut funds which are transferred to the parties are part of the Histadrut's regular budget, and admitted that Ramon himself does not know according to what criteria or basis this is being done. Geshel said that

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## THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL

Represented by

The Government Corporations Authority

hereby announces that it is considering the sale of

between 52% and 100% of the shares of the company known as:  
**Shikun U'pituah Leyisrael Ltd. (hereunder "the Company")**

Anyone interested in acquiring between 52% and 100% of the share capital of the Company may apply to the Government, through the Government Corporations Authority (hereunder "the Authority") in accordance with the procedure specified in this notice.

Forms and documentation for such applications, including the sale procedure in respect of the shares, may be purchased, from the date of this notice, for the sum of NIS 5,000 (non-refundable) by a check made out to the Ministry of Finance - Accountant General, at the office of Mr. Danny Weintraub or at the office of Mr. Sagit Rubin, at the Government Corporations Authority, Ministry of Finance, 1 Kaplan St., 7th floor, room 747, P.O.B. 883, Jerusalem 91008, Tel. 02-317563, Fax. 02-611680.

Applications by interested parties, as specified in the sale procedure, together with all of the accompanying forms duly completed, should be submitted to the Authority by Thursday, August 18, 1994, at 3 p.m. The Authority reserves the right to alter deadlines and/or other conditions of the sale procedure, at its sole discretion, as it deems appropriate, from time to time.

The Authority is entitled, at its full and absolute discretion, to choose from among the applicants and other parties which it may approach on its own initiative, those parties which will continue to participate in the sale process and to whom it will provide additional information and/or who will be invited to submit bids for the acquisition of the shares, and it may enter into negotiations with interested parties regarding the acquisition of the shares, if and when it takes a decision to sell such shares.

Applicants will be required to demonstrate economic and financial capability, as specified in the sale procedure, as a condition for participation in the sale procedure.

In selecting a purchaser(s) of the shares, preference may be given to applicant(s) offering to acquire 100% of the shares of the Company. The Authority will consider the possibility of selling the remainder (if any) of the State's holdings in the Company through the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The selection of a purchaser of the shares, if less than 100% of the capital of the Company is acquired, will be made considering the aforesaid above, subject to the limitations provided in the bylaws and regulations of the Stock Exchange and considering the additional considerations specified in the sale procedure.

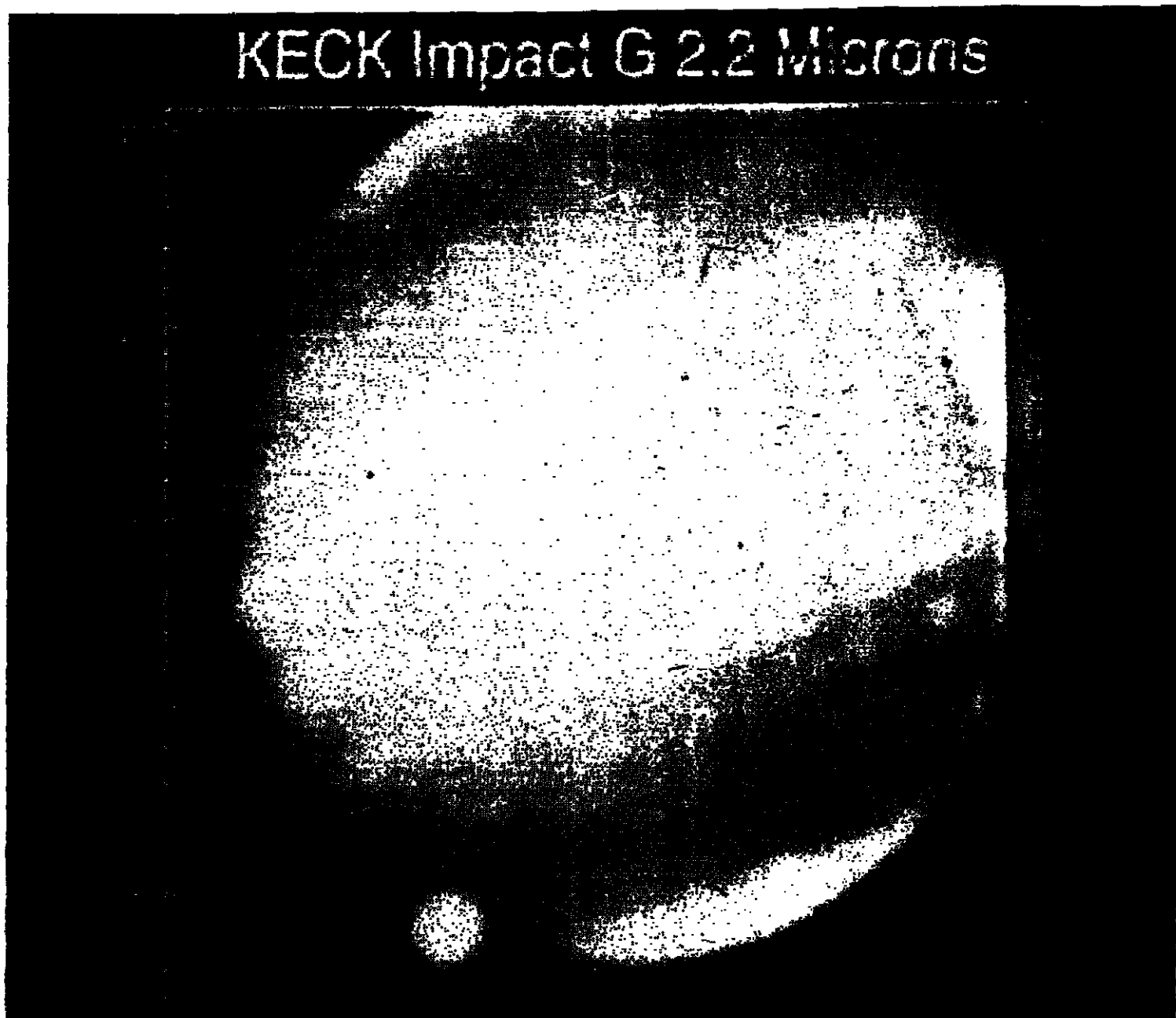
The sale of the State's shares in the Company is subject to obtaining the approvals required by all laws or agreements, including the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee, the agreement of the Director, Restrictive Trade Practices, and the approval of the Israel Lands Administration.

Under the Compulsory Tenders (Hovat Hamichrazim) Regulations 5753-1993, the sale of the State's shares in the company is exempt from the tender requirement. To remove any doubt, it should be clear that this notice does not constitute an invitation to the public to purchase the State of Israel's shares in the Company, nor is this notice an offer and/or undertaking on the part of the State to sell such shares. The purchaser(s) (if any) shall be determined on the basis of inquiries and, possibly, negotiations undertaken by the Authority, at its sole discretion, with such parties as it may select, if a decision to sell the State's shares in the Company is taken.

40-100202



## KECK Impact G 2.2 Microns



This image from the University of California's W. M. Keck Observatory in Mauna Kea, Hawaii, captures the plume of impact G, lower left, of Comet Shoemaker/Levy yesterday. This image taken from NASA television was photographed in the 2.2 micron infrared range. (AP photo/NASA TV)

## Comet slams into Jupiter with force of a 250-million-megaton bomb

GREENBELT, Md. (Reuters) — The biggest fragment yet from Comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 slammed into Jupiter yesterday with the force of a 250-million-megaton bomb, nearly overwhelming one of Earth's most sophisticated telescopes.

"That's a big wallop," comet co-discoverer Eugene Shoemaker told a news conference, referring to the impact of the piece of the comet known as Fragment-G at about 10:30 a.m.

The impact was so bright it nearly overwhelmed the Keck Telescope on Mount Mauna Kea in Hawaii, saturating the telescope's detectors and appearing as bright as the whole planet of Jupiter normally appears, astronomers said.

Shoemaker estimated the energy released by the impact as comparable to 250 million megatons.

Fragment G is the seventh in a chain of 21 pieces of Comet Shoemaker-Levy expected to hit the giant planet by Friday.

By late on Sunday, six pieces of

the dying comet were projected to have hit the giant planet.

Only the impacts from the first three fragments — called A, B and C — had been analysed by the time of a Sunday news conference at Goddard Space Flight Centre in suburban Washington.

Asked what to expect from Fragment G, comet discoverer Eugene Shoemaker said astronomers would see "basically the same phenomenon, but a much bigger boom."

Observation by the orbiting Hubble Space Telescope has shown that the mini-comets zoom through the ammonia clouds that cover Jupiter, smashing into the gaseous surface with a huge explosion that causes a rising fireball that spreads out and falls after 20 minutes or so.

Shoemaker said the explosion appears to cause giant seismic shock waves visible in enhanced Hubble images. However, Heidi Hammel, a colleague of Shoemaker's on the team analysing the images, said this

may just be a ring of comet debris around a central impact site.

All 21 fragments of Shoemaker-Levy are expected to smash into the planet near its southern pole by next Friday. Some of the biggest impacts may be produced by the so-called "Gang of Four" mini-comets expected to land late Wednesday and early on Thursday.

Even a comparatively small fragment like the first one that hit on Saturday causes a violent visible impact, with a central site about half the size of Earth's diameter and an aureole as big as the whole Earth, Hammel said.

Shoemaker and his fellow discoverers — his wife Carolyn and amateur astronomer David Levy — were thunderstruck by the size and force of the first collision which they said was comparable to 10 million megatons of dynamite.

Shoemaker said he and the team had been worried about over-hyping the collisions in advance lest they

face what he called "the Kahoutek effect." He was referring to a much-promoted comet of the 1970s that fizzled.

The expected collision of the 21 pieces of Shoemaker-Levy with Jupiter will not affect life on Earth.

Any comparable impact on Earth would be a major disaster, causing huge damage at the crash site and catastrophic climate changes, Shoemaker said.

Space shuttle Columbia astronauts returned to studying slime moulds and molten metals after they failed to see fragments of a comet strike the planet, Jupiter.

Back on Earth, there was more disappointing news about a Japanese science instrument which broke down again after a fifth repair attempt.

Two astronauts, NASA's Rick Hieb and Japan's Chiaki Mukai, each sacrificed scheduled half-day duty breaks to try to flush air bubbles out of the balky machine's cooling system, but to little avail.

## Christopher: Time for Haiti's dictators to go

JIM ABRAMS

WASHINGTON

SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher said yesterday that he hopes international sanctions will drive Haiti's military dictators from power but that it still might take a US invasion. Either way, he said, "it's time for their illegal government to go."

"Clearly nobody thinks the use of force is the most attractive option, but it may come to that," Christopher said from Jerusalem, where he is attempting to break an impasse in Israeli-Syrian peace negotiations.

Christopher, in a television interview, stressed that "the president has not made that decision" on whether to invade the island.

Asked what he would tell Haitians hoping for a US invasion, Christopher said: "You should say to them that we're maximizing our pressure on the illegal government with enhanced sanctions."

"It's time for their illegal government to go. We ought to bend all of our efforts in that direction. The United States is hoping that this pressure will be effective. At the same time, the president has deliberately kept the use-of-force option on the table."

The United States has vital interests in Haiti and cannot allow the situation there to continue, White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta said Sunday on a television news show.

"You've got a country that is in turmoil, that's a neighbor — and I don't think we can simply sit back and allow that kind of turmoil to continue," he said, referring to the flood of refugees and the "brutal military dictatorship just a few miles from our shore."

"We cannot simply sit back and allow the status quo to

eat us up alive."

Asked if the United States would assist a rebellion within the Haitian military to overthrow its leaders, Panetta said, "we don't want to anticipate what could or could not happen in Haiti."

Defense Secretary William Perry, in Romania, told reporters Sunday that Clinton "truly has not decided" whether there would be an invasion.

Asked whether the United States was drawing closer to such a decision, Perry said the administration was "proceeding farther along in the sanctions program" and that the president intends to "give it some time to see if it works."

But critics at both ends of the political spectrum said the administration is moving too quickly toward military action to oust the military leaders who took power in a 1991 coup that ousted democratically elected President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

"I think it's going to happen. I think they're right on the edge," Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said in a television interview.

Dole said it was wrong to risk American and Haitian lives to restore democracy to that country. The United States shouldn't "run around invading countries because of democratic principles. If there's American interests threatened or American lives threatened that's another thing, but that hasn't happened," he said.

Rep. Kweisi Mfume, D-Md., the head of the 38-member Congressional Black Caucus, agreed with Dole that the administration's Haiti policy has increased the possibility of military intervention. (AP)

## Serbs 'must be set to fight on'

PALE (Reuters) — Bosnian Serb leader

Radovan Karadzic spelled out his objections to a big-power peace plan for Bosnia for the national assembly yesterday, telling his people they must be prepared to fight on if they reject it.

In a speech to the Bosnian Serbs' self-styled parliament, he did not tell deputies to accept or reject the plan, but said acceptance would be the "less honourable" of the two choices.

Bosnia's Muslim-led parliamentary assembly also met yesterday in Sarajevo to debate the peace plan designed to end 27 months of war.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic has already indicated that he believes the plan, put forward by the United States, Russia, Britain, France and Germany, should be accepted.

The Bosnian Sabor, a grouping of Muslim intellectuals, politicians and other opinion formers, earlier yesterday voted to back the plan. There is a substantial overlap in membership of the Sabor and the parliament. The Sabor's approval is seen as a pointer to what the parliamentarians will decide.

The peace plan awards 51 percent of Bosnia to the Muslim-Croat federation with the rest going to the Bosnian Serbs, who currently hold 70 percent.

Karadzic's speech appeared to be designed to persuade deputies to

throw out the plan.

"If we reject the plan we must prepare ourselves to reject all attacks by our enemies but also to move into enemy territory and in the shortest possible time completely and utterly defeat our foes," he said.

"We must confront air strikes, we must down the largest possible number of planes and take each downed pilot prisoner."

"If we do not accept the plan we must with great certainty count on intensification of the war and then on the expansion of the war beyond our borders... The other option is less honourable but just as uncertain."

Acceptance would mean "tens of thousands" of foreign troops on the borders of Yugoslavia, a situation that would result in "perhaps the destruction and disappearance of Serb states".

Karadzic then quoted British World War Two leader Winston Churchill.

"Like Churchill, I can offer you blood, sweat and tears. But unlike his country, which enjoyed the support of half of the world, we are going to stand completely alone, but we will preserve our people."

Karadzic, who has come under intense pressure to accept the plan from the international community as well as from his backer, Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, appeared com-

mitted to a continuation of the 27-month-old war.

"If we reject the plan, we must declare a state of war, convert to a war economy and mobilise the entire people."

Diplomats from the powers who drew up the peace plan — the United States, Russia, France, Britain and Germany — have warned that if either of the Bosnian factions reject it they face the economic and military penalties intended to induce compliance.

Even before the parliamentary session started, Bosnian Serb deputies were in defiant mood.

"To accept it is totally unthinkable. The insulting map presented to us by the major powers resembles a burnt-out rag, it is throwing us back into the last century," said Miodrag Jodic, a deputy from the northern town of Doboj.

"We would have to forcefully evacuate hundreds of thousands of people into a territory with only goat trails for thoroughfares. And on top of that, the territory allotted to us is totally indefensible, requiring manpower we do not have to patrol its jagged borders," he said.

What is being offered to us does not even merit discussion. Even if we were to accept this disgraceful proposal the people would ignore it and continue fighting," said Nikola Erceg from Banja Luka.

## Simpson's defense — framed by a 'racist cop'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Lawyers for

former football great O.J. Simpson will probably claim that their client was framed by a racist officer who planted key evidence on his estate, *The New Yorker* magazine reports.

Members of Simpson's defense team will claim Detective Mark Fuhrman found two bloody gloves at the scene of the murders of Simpson's ex-wife and her friend and that he took one to Simpson's estate, where he claimed to have found it, the magazine reports in its July 25 issue, released Sunday.

The article by Jeffrey Toobin cites a series of interviews with at least two "leading members of Simpson's defense team," who are not identified. Simpson, who grew up impoverished and fatherless in San Francisco, first gained fame in the late 1960s when he won the highest award in college football, the Heisman Trophy. He played professional football for the Buffalo Bills and San Francisco 49ers, retiring in 1979 and earning a place in the game's hall of fame.

Simpson has stayed in the limelight, working as a TV sports commentator and actor.

The matching bloody gloves — one found by the slashed bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman and the other discovered on the grounds of Simpson's \$5 million Brentwood estate — were among the strongest evidence presented by prosecutors at Simpson's preliminary

hearing.

Last Thursday, sources close to the defense had indicated to *The Associated Press* that it was investigating information about Fuhrman, and that suspicions that he planted the glove might become part of its defense.

The news cooperative didn't report the possible strategy because it was described to the AP on the condition it not be published.

Simpson has pleaded innocent to the June 12 murders of Ms. Simpson, 35, and Goldman, 25. He is jailed without bail and awaits a Superior Court arraignment.

Fuhrman denied the allegations. "Of course it didn't happen," he told *The New Yorker*, declining to discuss the case further.

One attorney interviewed by the magazine said the defense team still hadn't decided whether to claim in court that Simpson was framed; another said it was a done deal.

Lead defense attorney Robert Shapiro said he was not the source of the article, nor had he seen it.

He refused to comment further on the report.

The magazine described a scenario the attorneys said they might put forth during trial.

"Suppose (Fuhrman) has actually found two gloves at the murder scene," one of the lawyers said. "He transports one of them over to the house and then 'finds' it back in that little alleyway where no one could

see him."

The attorneys claimed Fuhrman had two reasons to plant the evidence. First, he wanted to be in the spotlight, they said.

His second motivation, the lawyers charged in the report, was racism. Simpson is black. Fuhrman and both victims are white.

The magazine cited reports from psychiatrists who treated Fuhrman. Fuhrman left the Marines in 1973, later telling psychiatrist Dr. Ronald R. Koeigler he stopped enjoying his military service because "there were these Mexicans and niggers, volunteers, and they would tell me they weren't going to do something."

In general, Fuhrman's progress reports from the Los Angeles Police Department were favorable. A police spokesman said there is no public record of disciplinary proceedings against him.

But Koeigler wrote that Fuhrman was overzealous in using violence during arrests.

"He bragged about violence he used in subduing suspects, including choke holds, and said he would beat their hands or face or arms or legs, if necessary," Koeigler wrote.

Fuhrman tried to leave the force in the early 1980s, the magazine said, claiming that during his police work he had "sustained seriously disabling psychiatric symptomatology." His request for a disability pension was denied.

## Mother of Camdodian hostage still optimistic

SYDNEY — The mother of an Australian woman kidnapped with two Britons and feared murdered by Khmer Rouge guerrillas said yesterday she was still optimistic her daughter was alive.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans said it was 90 percent certain Kellie Wilkinson, 24, her British boyfriend Dominic Chappell, 25, and her friend Tina Dornay, 34, were dead.

"I still feel optimistic that Kellie is still alive," said Gabrielle Wilkinson. Speaking on Australian radio from her Queensland home, Wilkinson said that despite the finding of human remains believed to be those of three Westerners, there was still nothing "absolutely positive" about her daughter's fate.

"We have had reports a little similar before and we worked through those and will try to hold up through this one," Wilkinson said. "We will hold on, and hopefully it will be proven that we still have them."

"In this sort of situation I know things may not look good, a lot of pointers may be leading to it but there's still nothing that, to me, is absolutely positive," she said.

"It has just been very difficult. We still keep our prayers going — there's still hope."

All three were kidnapped on April 11 at gunpoint from a taxi on the notorious Highway Four between the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh and the southern seaport of Sihanoukville.

Evans said there was "a 95 percent probability" that Wilkinson, a former model from Brisbane, and her two British companions had been murdered soon after their abduction at gunpoint.

Evans said that if the three companions had been murdered in Cambodia, it was crucial the culprits be brought to justice.

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In the picture: Mrs. Pulver trying out one of the language labs.

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# Rwanda rebels declare victory; hundreds of thousands flee

PAUL ALEXANDER

GOMA

REBEL forces in Rwanda declared victory yesterday as hundreds of thousands of Hutu refugees threatened to overwhelm a second area of neighboring Zaire.

The Tutsi-dominated rebels said they had swept away the last Hutu government resistance, and that a cease-fire was in place. The rebel leader said he hoped the end of the fighting would halt the desperate human flight out of Rwanda.

It was eerily quiet yesterday in Goma, where up to 1 million terrified Hutus had fled advancing rebels in the previous five days. An estimated 170,000 people died Sunday in cross-border mortar fire and in two massive stampedes across the frontier. Yesterday the shelling had stopped and the gunfire had tapered off.

Hutus, fearing revenge from the rebels, began crossing into Goma on Wednesday — at least 300,000 coming across on Sunday alone.

From Geneva, the Red Cross said fears of a rebel advance into southwestern Rwanda touched off a new exodus Sunday into Bukavu, 100 km south of Goma.

Red Cross spokesman Tony Burgen said tens of thousands had arrived by yesterday morning and the number was rapidly approaching 100,000.

"There is a potential of another couple of hundred thousand people that might come in there as well," he said. With that many refugees, the situation in Bukavu would become "very dangerous," he said.

In Goma, Burgen said, there were first signs of dysentery, and an epidemic probably would be unavoidable.

The refugees in Goma and Bukavu fled for fear that Tutsi-led rebels would try to avenge the slaughter of an estimated 200,000 to 500,000 people — most of them Tutsis — by Hutu militias. Thus far, there has been little evidence of widespread rebel reprisals against Hutus.

In the Rwandan capital, Kigali, the rebels declared victory against the Hutu government, but said another fight was brewing with French troops protecting an area of southern Rwanda where Hutu government leaders were hiding.

"We have captured all of Rwanda up to the French protection zone and a cease-fire is effectively in place," rebel commander Gen. Paul Kagame said.

He said he hoped the victory would



A Rwandan refugee woman carries a baby away from its dead mother yesterday, close to the border crossing in Zaire.

halt the flight of Hutus into Zaire. "There is no need for anyone to flee Rwanda," Kagame said. "We guarantee all Rwandans stability and security."

He said his men were under orders not to harm civilians, but gave no assurances to French forces.

The rebels want the French to arrest the leaders of the Hutu govern-

ment. The French say their troops have a UN mandate to carry out a humanitarian mission, and arresting government leaders is not part of that mandate.

The rebels also announced yesterday that Pasteur Bizimungu, a Hutu, would serve a five-year term as president.

Yesterday Zairian soldiers kept

people away from the border crossing at Goma. Soldiers went through thousands of guns confiscated from Rwandan soldiers who joined with Panos Mounziris of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees called "the exodus of a nation."

With little food and water, relief workers were unable to cope with the flood of refugees at Goma. (Reuters)

## Funeral for Kim veiled in secrecy

SEOUL (AP) — North Korea yesterday made ready for the state funeral of Kim Il Sung, but drew a thick veil of secrecy over plans for laying to rest the only ruler the hard-line state has ever known.

The body of Kim, who died July 8 at 82, has been lying in state all week at the presidential palace. By the tens of thousands, weeping North Koreans have been paying their respects at the flower-bedecked bier.

But by late yesterday, the eve of the funeral, official media in the reclusive North still had not announced what time or where the funeral would be held, or who would be allowed to attend.

South Korean experts said the lack of information about the funeral suggested attendance would be strictly limited and the ceremony kept simple. The bulk of the pomp, they said, apparently would be reserved for mass memorial rallies planned for the following day.

North Korean media said "the entire people across the country" would observe a three-minute silence at noon tomorrow and all locomotives and ships with sirens or whistles would sound them.

South Korean reports suggest that the rallies, though ostensibly a tribute to the elder Kim, will be meant to turn national attention toward his son and heir apparent, Kim Jong Il.

The younger Kim's succession of his father has not been formally announced, but all signs point to his having taken over the leadership.

The North's secrecy about funeral details was in keeping with its overall handling of Kim's death, which it did not announce for a full day after he died.

North Korea also disclosed almost nothing about the circumstances surrounding Kim Il Sung's fatal heart attack, and over the weekend it postponed the funeral by two days on what was viewed as the rather thin pretext that more people wanted to pay respects.

The Pyongyang government refused to allow any foreign dignitaries to attend the ceremony, and has prohibited travel to North Korea by foreigners during the official mourning period that extends through tomorrow.

A few reporters from formerly Communist countries were in the North's capital, but they, too, were largely in the dark about funeral plans.

A dispatch by Russia's ITAR-Tass news agency said foreign diplomats in Pyongyang were speculating that Kim's remains might be entombed in a sarcophagus in a central square of the capital or at the presidential palace, on the city's outskirts.

The report also said North Korean citizens had been hard at work sprucing up the capital. Road workers were pouring fresh asphalt and schoolchildren by the thousands were sweeping streets and tending lawns. Trolley and electric lines were also being fixed, the dispatch said.

It was not known what Korean traditions, if any, would be observed at the funeral.

## Mitterrand undergoes prostate surgery

PARIS (Reuters) — French President François Mitterrand, 77, had a successful operation to remove a prostate obstruction yesterday, nearly two years after prostate cancer surgery, his personal physician said.

Dr. Claude Gubler said in a statement that the latest intervention was to remove a constriction of the urethra which was affecting his kidneys. "The operation, conducted by endoscopy, went very well," he said.

Professor Adi Steg, who led the team of surgeons, told reporters later that Mitterrand was awake and in a satisfactory condition.



Rosanna Della Corte, a 62-year-old Italian woman, yesterday became the world's oldest mother when she gave birth to a boy, the clinic in Rome where she was treated reported. Della Corte, who had a donor's fertilized eggs implanted in her uterus, gave birth under the supervision of controversial fertility doctor Severino Antinori, who last year helped a 59-year-old British woman give birth to twins. Staff at Antinori's Rome clinic said Della Corte, who lives in the central Italian town of Canino, and her child were both well. They declined to say where the baby was born or how it was delivered. So-called "granny pregnancies" have unleashed an ethical storm in Roman Catholic Italy, where a lack of relevant legislation has made the country a magnet for post-menopausal women who want to have children. A government-appointed committee last month recommended that scientifically assisted pregnancies should be limited to couples of child bearing age. Antinori used the sperm of Della Corte's husband, who is in his 60s, to fertilize the anonymous donor's eggs. Della Corte, shown in a December 1993 file photo, wanted a baby following the death in 1991 of her 17-year-old only child, Riccardo, in a road accident. (Reuters)

## Accused baby snatcher fooled lover — he thought he fathered the infant

LONDON (Reuters) — A 22-year-old British woman facing charges of kidnapping an hours-old baby girl fooled her lover, family and neighbors who thought the child was her own, newspapers reported yesterday.

The story of baby Abbie, snatched two weeks ago from a hospital maternity ward in Nottingham, central England, has gripped Britain.

She was returned to her parents, Karen and Roger Humphries, on Saturday and her alleged kidnapper, Julie Kelley, was charged yesterday.

"I was fooled," Kelley's boyfriend, Leigh Gilbert, was quoted as saying by newspapers. Speaking through a lawyer, Gilbert said Kelley told him Abbie was their baby.

He said he was so wrapped up in caring for the infant that he missed the enormous coverage given to the story by newspapers, radio and television.

Neighbors said Kelley had seemed pregnant for several months.

The Times said police had refused to explain how officers visited Gilbert's house four days before Abbie was recovered but failed to recognize the baby.

Arguing that the case was now sub judice, the police said only that officers had been given a plausible explanation, the newspaper reported.

It quoted a police spokesman as saying: "The officer did see a baby, but did not recognise her as Abbie Humphries. Publication of any further detail at this stage might prejudice a fair trial."

■ In Bucharest a British couple detained for trying to spirit a five-month-old baby girl out of Romania have applied for bail and described their own action as a "stupid mistake," the prosecutor's office said yesterday.

Chief district prosecutor Emil Dinu said Adrian and Bernadette Mooney, from Berkshire in England, who are held in separate cells at Bucharest police headquarters, had pleaded for bail earlier in the day.

"We don't want to make an example out of the British couple," he said.

Bernadette Mooney wrote in her plea: "Please be understanding with my situation as this was a stupid mistake only."

Her husband Adrian made a similar emotional plea for bail.

Dinu said the two might be released from detention this week. He said bail would be "symbolic," as under Romanian law it cannot exceed the equivalent of about \$60.

But the Mooneys would have to stand trial as charged under the adoption law, which bans child trafficking. They are also charged with violating border laws.

Florina Dimit and Florin Baisram, the baby Monica's unmarried 17-year-old parents, are also under arrest with three other Romanians suspected of involvement in the case.

## Police teargas scores of protesters in Nigeria

LAGOS (Reuters) — Police fired tear gas yesterday in Nigeria's two biggest cities to disperse protesters angry at the government's handling of an oil workers' strike that has brought much of the country to a halt, witnesses said.

"Hundreds of people were involved in demonstrations along Ikorodu Road and there were running battles with police," a motorist caught up in a protest in Lagos told Reuters.

Ikorodu Road is a major highway leading out of Lagos, Nigeria's commercial center.

The strike, which entered its third week yesterday, is to press for the release of self-declared president Moshood Abiola and restoration of democracy in Africa's most populous nation.

Leaders of the striking unions vowed to press on with the stoppage despite a government pledge to consider freeing political detainees in-

cluding Abiola. "Nothing has changed," Bola Owundunni, president of the senior oil union Pengassan, said.

Another witness yesterday's clashes said: "People were burning tyres and police were driving them away."

He said rain had helped put out the fires.

Witnesses said demonstrators also clashed with riot police yesterday in Mushin and Ketu, known trouble-spots in the city.

Residents of the southwestern city of Ibadan, Nigeria's second biggest city after Lagos, said police and demonstrators also clashed there yesterday.

"There is a battle raging now between police and students," an official of an Ibadan-based international organization said by telephone from there.

The strike has choked off fuel supplies to domestic consumers, forcing many businesses to close in Africa's

most populous nation. But the impact on exports of crude, Nigeria's main source of foreign exchange, was minimal. Oil industry sources estimated there had been a five percent output cutback because of skeletal staffing.

Since Abiola, the apparent winner of last year's annulled presidential poll, was arrested and charged with treason for proclaiming himself president there have been sporadic protests in Lagos and several southwestern cities.

Scores of other people have been detained since May for calling for an end to military rule.

Government representatives met the umbrella Nigeria Labor Congress (NLC) at the weekend and agreed to free detainees if they would keep the peace.

But Pengassan's Owundunni said: "We are not party to that meeting. We don't belong to the NLC."

The junior oil workers' union, Nupeng, which started the strike and was then joined by Pengassan, said its executive committee had resolved to make the action more effective.

The NLC, whose central working committee was meeting yesterday to consider its next move, groups 41 unions but has no control over their individual actions.

It has itself threatened to call out its 3.5 million members. Union sources said they doubted the NLC would go ahead with a strike but individual unions might act.

Military ruler General Sani Abacha seized power last November pledging to end the crisis precipitated by the annulment of the presidential election.

Officials said Abacha yesterday postponed a scheduled trip to Togo for talks with Cameroonian President Paul Biya on the long-running Bakassi dispute but did not say whether this was because of the political crisis and labour dispute at home.

## Palace porter admits thefts

LONDON (Reuters) — A former porter at Buckingham Palace pleaded guilty yesterday to stealing a \$350,000 century painting from the royal collection. Duncan Gray, 22, was arrested shortly after the theft of the Adriatic van Ostade oil painting from the official residence of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, in January.

Appearing in a London crown court, Gray also admitted two other charges of theft of palace property, a \$4,000 19th century rose bowl stolen in November and cutlery worth £150.

## Midas touch deserts Berlusconi

ROME (Reuters) — Italy's populist Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi appears to have scored a stunning own goal with a decree lifting the threat of jail from graft suspects.

The media tycoon with the Midas touch seems to have misread the mood of a nation through his support for a measure that has plunged his two-month-old coalition into crisis and put him on a collision course with Italy's hugely popular magistrates.

Billed by Berlusconi as a charter for civil liberties, the cabinet measure has raised cries on the streets of a whitewash for old guard politicians

whose astronomical appetite for kickbacks has outraged even the most fanatical Italians.

Interior Minister Roberto Maroni of the federalist Northern League, now at daggers drawn with Berlusconi and pressing for the decree law to be scrapped, summed up the public-relations disaster.

"The government has given the impression that it wants to protect its friends," Maroni said last week.

Pino Rauti, a hardliner in the neo-fascist National Alliance, the other partner in Berlusconi's tripartite coalition, put it even more succinctly.

"Millions of Italians did not vote for us so we would absolve thieves and let them out of jail," he said.

Berlusconi's close friendship with former Socialist prime minister Bettino Craxi, one of the most reviled figures of the Tangentopoli (Bribeville) scandal, has long been used by the leftist opposition as a stick with which to beat him. Now commentators forecast that the 57-year-old billionaire, who smiled his way to triumph in general elections last March with televised talk of clean government and economic miracles, will lose out however the crisis unfolds.

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## Buenos Aires again

AS government officials made abundantly clear yesterday, the identity of the terrorists who perpetrated the bombing of the Jewish offices in Buenos Aires is no secret. As in the case of the bombing of the Israeli embassy there two years ago, it is clear that the terrorist atrocity in Argentina is a retaliation for Israel's actions against the Hizbullah in Lebanon. Nor is it a secret that Iran, Hizbullah's sponsor, plays an active role in providing the terrorists with vital logistic, financial and tactical support. Without the help of a sponsoring government and its offices abroad, terrorist groups would find it difficult to execute such complicated operations.

But inveighing against Iran and the Hizbullah tends to obscure the role played by Syria in this deadly game. Without Syria's blessing, the Hizbullah could not exist at all. It is Syria which enables the terror organization to train, arm, deploy its forces on the south Lebanon border and attack Israel. The initiator of what is known in diplomatic language as the "cycle of violence" — a euphemism for unceasing attacks on Israelis, is Damascus. Even more than Iran, Syria must be held responsible for Hizbullah terrorism.

Nor should Israel ignore the role of governments that piously condemn terrorist acts but supply arms to the terrorists' sponsors. In Syria's case the chief culprit is Russia. But such former satellites of the Soviet Union as the Czech and

Slovak republics cynically give economic calculations priority over moral considerations and sell sophisticated arms to the Syrian dictatorship.

In Iran's case the guilt must be shared by an even larger and more distinguished circle. Germany, France, Italy, Switzerland and others all sell Iran weapons, extend it financial assistance, and supply it with materials that can be used to produce weapons of mass destruction.

That the bombing was almost an exact replica of the attack on the Buenos Aires embassy must also give Israelis pause. Argentinian President Carlos Menem said yesterday that the terrorists were helped by local collaborators. It is entirely possible that in Argentina, where pro-Nazi groups made the escape of numerous Nazi war criminals possible after World War II, active antisemitic elements are collaborating with the Hizbullah in their murderous missions. It would be comforting to believe that the Argentinian government is doing all it can to apprehend them and bring them to justice.

Finally, Jews everywhere, and the Jewish community in Argentina in particular, should view the attack for what it is — an attack against Jews as Jews. Islamic fanaticism, adhering to a long tradition, is hostile not only to Israel but to all Jews. And the Jews of Argentina must realize that there is no better way to thwart the purpose of this fanaticism than to join their brethren in Israel.

## Surprised by the inevitable

EVERY time there has been an international disaster, the United Nations and major aid agencies have said they had learned a lesson from it for the next time. And one more time, they always manage to be caught on the hop. The war in Rwanda has been running most of this year and has been well reported. As the rebel forces advanced across the country, it has been obvious for months that a refugee disaster was on the way. Now that it has arrived, it has been turning rapidly into a catastrophe.

The reasons for anticipating a refugee exodus were not complex. The war exploded in an orgy of killing when the Hutu-dominated government unleashed its forces on the Tutsi minority after the Hutu president was killed in a plane crash. The Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) rebel forces which moved into Rwanda from Uganda were led by Tutsi exiles and gathered strength as they advanced across the country. When the government collapsed and Kigali fell, it was obvious the Hutus would expect Tutsi vengeance and run for cover. And run they have, in their hundreds of thousands, streaming across the border into Zaire.

The only foreign country that anticipated the crisis and took preemptive action was France. Amid universal international grumbling and suspicion of its motives, France placed its troops across the Zairean border and set up a safe zone, dismantling roadblocks, disarming all who entered, and warning the victorious RPF army to

stay clear so as not to cause panic. The action has probably saved untold thousands of lives and has given the Hutus fleeing to Zaire an airlock of safety through which to pass.

Now UN member states and aid agencies that criticized the swift French action as destabilizing are throwing their arms up in horror as they struggle to feed and shelter the refugees stampeding over the Zairean border. "It happened so suddenly and nobody is ready. Nobody can stop them," said an International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) official who has obviously been totally isolated from the steady stream of news bulletins that for weeks have been anticipating an exodus, not in its thousands, but in its millions. Virtually no emergency supplies had been prepositioned near the now-swamped refugee camps.

There is clearly going to be no humanitarian solution to this disaster. As the refugees run out of the supplies they have carried with them, the UN has no hope of feeding these masses in the barren Zairean countryside. They must simply be persuaded to go home. This may not be as difficult as it appears. Considering that as many as half a million Tutsis may have been exterminated, the RPF rebels have shown no sign of taking reprisals, and said all Rwandans except war criminals will be safe. Enormous international pressure must now be put on the victorious RPF to move swiftly to calm the fleeing population.



## Just a dress rehearsal

WILL the government ever learn? Or will the lessons of the "Erez Checkpoint Battle" go unheeded?

First lesson: Treat the Arabs as you would have treated Kiyat Arba residents, had they wounded 21 security personnel, critically shot a Border Policeman and torched 150 buses and a petrol station.

You wouldn't "appease" the residents of Kiyat Arba, would you? So don't appease the Palestinians. Stop this breast-beating ("Why did we 'starve' them, why did they have to spend so many hours standing in line?")

Don't increase the number of Arabs allowed to cross the Green Line. If you show them that, even now, terror will get them wherever they want, you're just inviting the next assault, by tens of thousands, on Kibbutz Yad Mordechai — as Rafael Eitan predicted.

Second lesson: Stop wailing over the Palestinians' hard life. We aren't obliged to feed the hand that stoned us, that stabbed us.

The Palestinians' Saudi brethren are drowning in gold. Let them take over the feeding. Teach the Palestinians the hard way, that you don't bite your benefactors, but say a polite thank you.

Only when they've learned their lesson, should we let them in to work, slowly and gradually — and only those who prove they deserve our help and compassion.

Third lesson: Take this at least from Yitzhak Shamir: "The sea is the same sea, and Arafat is the same Arafat" — a liar, a base intriguer who immediately ran to the Americans with the libelous statement that the riot was all our fault.

As the Arab proverb goes: "He struck me and wept; he left me and complained." As if the IDF shot his 150 buses. As if the IDF shot his policeman.

It is too early, even now, to ask Rabin to wash that unfortunate

ELYAKIM HA'ETZNI

hand which touched Arafat in a sulphur bath, to put an end to any further contacts with that man? Difficult today? Tomorrow it will be harder.

Fourth lesson: Don't be suckers. Israel has promised the US that it will cover all the damage caused by the riot in East Jerusalem two weeks ago. But who will indemnify us for 150 burned buses, and a half-burned industrial center? Arafat?

FIFTH LESSON: They told us that the young PLO intelligentsia, those who rubbed shoulders with and were ardently embraced by our enlightened peacekeepers, had learned something about democracy from them. So we gave them a radio frequency, a station in Ramallah, and Bezek services — and what do we hear? The same old fabric of lies.

The IDF shot at ambulances, a "settler" shot at them, the Jews burned their own property. Spot the difference between the new Palestinian "Peace" station and Ahmed Jibril's.

"You make peace with your enemies?" Not exactly. You make peace with vanquished enemies. If you inflict defeat upon yourself in front of your enemy, he will tread on you again and again.

Sixth lesson: Don't give them guns. But we did — Kalashnikovs to the "police," you name it to all and sundry. Gaza and Jericho are now one big arsenal. What name will Rabin give to the soldiers shot out of "liberated" Gaza by these guns? "Victims of peace"? "Victims of occupation"? What occupation? It is attributed to Chekhov that a gun seen hanging on the wall in the first act of the play will definitely be fired by the time the play is over. These guns, already being fired in the first act of the tragedy, will one day sound the opening shots of the next war.

Seventh lesson: During the "occupation," the army "allowed" our soldiers to turn their backs and run, through the alleys of Jabalya. On Sunday, they escaped, abandoning their posts in what Rabin calls "Sovereign Israel."

In six years of intifada, the IDF didn't learn the lesson that running away ("advancing to rear positions") isn't a victory to be proud of, but disgraceful behavior that invites the next assault.

Eighth lesson: The chief of staff and our whole political establishment have declared time and again that the logic behind Oslo lies in the certainty that Fatah-Arafat will defeat Hamas for us. For without that, the whole peace would hang on a thread.

But they don't say it any more. Because Fatah is helpless vis-à-vis Hamas and, in any case, shares all Hamas's aspirations. The Fatah-police doesn't dare, or want, to confront Hamas and the crowds it incites. It's easier to blame the Jews.

The "Erez Checkpoint Battle" was just a dress rehearsal. This is what the Palestinian state we are building for them will look like.

The writer, a former MK, is a lawyer who lives in Kiyat Arba.

A lot of work needs to be done before the two communities regain the harmony they once had

whites who treated Africans as "savages."

Afrocentrism overlooks the history of the common domestic struggle of Jews and blacks, and draws attention to several points of divergence between the two communities, such as support of the Palestinian and opposition to the former apartheid government of South Africa and its political, military and economic alliance with Israel. Domestically, Afrocentrism is concerned with African American images in the media, in which Jewish investment is significant.

BLACK INTELLECTUALS in the academic community who are seeking to clear away the consequences of a history written by white historians carry their arguments to extremes, as intellectuals frequently do, but they are influencing a generation of middle-class African American students.

The third cause of black antisemitism reflects interest-group conflicts. When African Americans moved into Jewish ghettos, the Jews moved out, but their stores and their ownership of property remained. Over time, it became clear that money flowed only one way.

The linkages that fostered understanding have declined in the past 30 years. Americans are more segregated now than were before. Black and Jewish children rarely go to school together today. The old leaders lost contact. The new generation never had any.

On May 27, the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council said that "the African American community is dealing with problems it must address and has a right to build effective coalitions to advance those efforts," that it is "up to that community to decide who comes to their meetings..." and that "it is hoped that those who attend will develop strategies enabling the traditional coalition of conscience to continue working together in addressing an agenda of shared domestic concerns." The council urged continuation of the historic support by the Jewish community for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at the national and local levels.

Unfortunately, this message of respect was overwhelmed by attempts by the media to shame the NAACP and its director Ben Chavis into rejecting a segment of the African American community. The black summit Chavis called in June to bring together all the leaders of the African American community was not planned as a structure akin to the Jewish Federation, which has pointedly rejected the extremist Jewish Defense League from its membership.

At this point the African American community is engaged in a process of self-exploration. There is no question that mainstream black organizations have always rejected the extremist views of Farrakhan and his ilk. But there is also no question that a lot of work needs to be done between Jews and blacks to understand each other, and to rebuild the strength these two communities have when they work together.

Kayden, a Jew, is a senior fellow at the Institute for Leadership Studies at Loyola-Marymount University. Shockey is pastor of the Church of Christian Fellowship, Los Angeles, and chairman of religious affairs for the Los Angeles board of the NAACP.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### PROGRAM FOR SIGHT IMPAIRED

Sir, — Twenty-five blind and visually impaired from all over the country have recently completed the new residential rehabilitation one-month course at the Center of the Advancement of the Blind in Safed. This unusual program has done more to help us cope with our vision disabilities than any other rehabilitation we have received since we became sight handicapped.

The center, tucked away in a small, unobtrusive spot, toward the southern end of this beautiful city, is a modern facility, established by Dr. Yael Ben-Dor years ago, for the purpose of developing skills in the sightless and poor-sighted, to give substance to their lives and instill independence and resourcefulness. Programs are created here to serve individual and group needs, to stimulate talents while motivating achievement.

Several months ago the newest innovative project, Residential Rehabilitation, was tried as a pilot program. Its success was so outstanding that a second was run for people who have recently become blind and for blind new immigrants who had never received rehabilitation of any kind in the countries from which they came.

In four weeks, we were taught how to cope with our problems, physically, socially and psychologically. This unique program put life back into our lives. It has shown us that we can still have dreams and plans for tomorrow.

YAAKOV YAFE  
Haifa

### CONTEMPORARY JUDAISM

Sir, — I was pleased to note, when listening to his televised address at the world conference of Jewish leaders, how much attention President Ezer Weizman is giving to the problems of Israel-Diaspora relations.

Fortunately, an important circle exists which could be utilized to carry forward the discussions on this very subject. The circle was founded by President Zalman Shazar and by Professor Moshe Davis, of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry of the Hebrew University. The institute bears the organizational responsibility for the circle. Its meetings were always attended by the president who not only hosted the gathering in his home, but was an active participant in its proceedings. Every president since the days of Shazar has done this — across a period of almost 30 years. In the light of his interest and desire for action on the subject, President Weizman will also presumably begin to do so in the very near future.

The circle is composed of a group of leading scholars, organization officials and lay leaders in contemporary Jewry, and its discussions have covered the relationship between Israel and communities throughout the world. Often visiting Jewish scholars from abroad have given the opening address at the monthly meetings. The proceedings of each year appear in published form and are distributed throughout the Jewish world, and specifically to the Foreign Office and WZO emissaries.

PROFESSOR SIMON N. HERMAN  
Jerusalem

### KINGS OF THE ROAD

Sir, — I would like to add one more J'Accuse to Meir Romen's list in his article of July 5.

I accuse the Egghead bus drivers sitting in the relative safety of their cabins, some two meters up, who zoom past at 120 kph, causing smaller private vehicles to shake and vibrate as they pass. They set the tone for the speed on the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway (and elsewhere for that matter) — violating the speed limit, but safe from punishment protected by the excellent legal aid from their cooperative.

On a recent trip abroad, I was surprised to observe that bus drivers actually veered off to the shoulder of the road when they felt that vehicles wished to overtake. Not so our kings of the road, who feel offended when dared to be overtaken.

RENEE SINGER

Ra'anana

### DAMASCUS AND ISFAHAN

Sir, — I am a research student doing a study on old Jewish communities in Arab lands. For my work, I need photographs or personal recollections of people who lived in Isfahan, Iran, or know of its old Jewish cemetery, and/or the Jewish Quarter community in Damascus. Any letters, pictures, or material on the topics will be greatly appreciated.

YEHOSHUA BEN-YAKOV,  
P.O. Box 61355,  
Jerusalem

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Black and Jew

# Ms. MacTartan: Celtic priestess

NEW RELEASES

TIRZAH AGASSI

**E**DDI Reader (Hed Arzi) is a small masterpiece, an album that is honest, beautiful and emotionally involving.

The thirty-something Scots-woman is telling a true story, possibly about a divorce. But it is not the details of the story that matter. Rather, what are most important are her intensity and integrity. Every song sounds as though it were born of sharp experience that cuts to the quick. Yet it is far from a gloomy album. If anything, it is triumphant, the chronicle of a difficult journey.

In 1991, the Catholic, working-class, Glasgow-born Reader released her first solo album, *Mrs. MacTartan* (Hed Arzi). She was accompanied by a crew of musicians called the Patron Saints of Imperfection, an apt name. Half of the album was brilliant; half was so-so. The best song was "What You Do with What You've Got."

Penned with two other songwriters, it was a breathtaking portrait of a person who has everything but is unable to share it, sung by someone who loves that person. In an interview at the time, Reader described herself as "Mrs. Ordinary Boring MacTartan," an insecure housewife who just happened to be a professional singer. The article, which appeared in *Q* magazine, chronicled her early career as the singer of a group called Fairground Attraction and Reader's terrible guilt feelings about its demise. It also turned out that she was the main breadwinner in a family that included a small son and a French husband whose business had recently failed.

Three years have since passed. Whatever it was that was holding Reader back has obviously

snapped. We are drawn in by subtle, folksy instrumentation blending guitar, piano and accordion with wonderful vocal overtones.

Reader's lead vocals are simply stunning. There is nothing static about the views she's offering; sometimes, they are as clear and disconcerting as those in a mirror.

The story starts happily enough with "The Right Place Now." ("I've been in the wrong place long enough to know I'm in the right place now.") Like most of the numbers on the album, it was not written by Reader. However, as she sings, you know she's telling her truth.

Next comes the MTV hit, "The Patience of Angels," about a woman who had better have it, followed by the devastating "Dear John," in which a woman decides to leave her man, because "I'm so tired of being the strong one."

But even the most radical decision doesn't come easily. On "East of Us," Reader sings: "He's on a river / fast white water / He just can't hold her / She just can't hold him / Why'd you do that, tear our house down?"

In the cautionary tale, "The Exception," she admits: "No pain, no gain / that's what they're saying / And it's hard to disagree but I thought somehow / They weren't including me."

Moods change again, ending with a sensual reverie called "Siren." Is the Valentino in the lady's arms flesh and blood or merely celluloid? The mood she creates is spell-like.

Eddi Reader is no Ordinary Boring Mrs. MacTartan. She's a Celtic priestess, and this album is a powerful feminine prayer. It's the best new release in months.



Singer Eddi Reader is hardly the ordinary Glasgow housewife she once professed to be.

# This conductor's no commitment-phobe

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

**A**NTONIO Pappano has been around, but he doesn't believe in one-night stands.

"It's not my style," says the 34-year-old British-born, American-raised, Belgium-based opera conductor.

"I know it's exciting to do an opera without any rehearsals at all," he says. "And at certain points in your career you should do it, but I can't live like that."

Pappano, artistic director of the Theatre Royal de la Monnaie in Brussels, has been here for a few weeks rehearsing and performing a concert version of Verdi's *Rigoletto* with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra.

He also leads the IPO in three subscription concerts, each featuring some operatic excerpts performed by members of the *Rigoletto* cast.

Pappano has had his share of one-night operatic stands. The first was in Vienna.

"I was in Berlin and they called me to come and do the dress rehearsal and premiere of *Siegfried* at the very last minute," he recalls. "It was my first-ever Wagner opera."

With a name like Pappano, Tony - as he is known to his friends - was usually invited to conduct Italian operas.

"But after the success in Vienna the doors were opened for me to do Wagner as well," he says.

In contrast to many of his colleagues, who specialize in one style, Pappano conducts German, Italian, French and Slovak operas.

"It's easier to specialize," he muses during an interview at the IPO guest house. "That way you don't have to re-invent yourself each time. But I prefer everything to be different from production to production. It's the only way I can exist."

THIS IS not Pappano's first visit here. Several years ago he was here as Daniel Barenboim's assistant, helping the renowned conductor prepare productions of the three Mozart operas with the IPO. "I played the piano during rehearsals, but I never conducted a performance," he says. "As an assistant it's important what you learn, how you learn it and what you are doing with it. It is also important, of course, who you assist, what his stature is, and what he can offer."

Most important of all is "how you translate it into [something of] your own. I've known all Barenboim's assistants and each became very successful in a different way. I was very open to what he had to offer. He's such a complete musician, but the bottom line is that we are all very talented people. The trick is what to do with this talent."

Pappano has had almost an entire week of rehearsals for the concert production of *Rigoletto*, necessary because there are two casts involved and three different singers scheduled for the title role in the first three performances.

Pappano is happy on the whole with the cast, even though he has had to deal with quite a few last-minute cancellations. "I love to be around quality," he says. "I don't care about the risks. If the music is good, I'm in safe hands."

He adds that doing *Rigoletto* in concert form - which means with no set, costumes or acting - is very exciting. "A lot of conductors do obscure operas in concert form. But those are less interesting works. I say if we do it in concert form, let's do something everybody knows."

Pappano leads *Rigoletto* tonight through Saturday in Tel Aviv and Haifa. Performances are scheduled for almost every night, although curtain time varies.

# Orchestra, not singers, had the final word in this 'Rigoletto'

**T**HE orchestra was the real hero in the Israel Philharmonic's production of Verdi's *Rigoletto*, conducted by Antonio Pappano.

In minute details as well as in its overall performance, technical cohesiveness and expression of the opera's spirit, the IPO gave the performance a solid basis.

The vocal resources were uneven. There was genuine excitement and true emotional involvement, at least toward the end. Baritone Frederick Burchinal, as Rigoletto, cut a merely sad, pathetic figure in Act One. Even in climactic, heart-rending "La maledizione!" fell flat. By the end of the last act, he had finally grown to tragic stature.

Gilda (Elena Brilova) was the disappointment of the performance. Her healthy but unstable

soprano and lack of frailty exuded a robustness incompatible with the image of this fragile heroine.

Reinaldo Macias, who displayed an impressive lyric tenor as the Duke in the other arias and ensembles, offered surprisingly commonplace renderings of "Questa o quella" and "La donna e mobile."

"One of the most convincing parts was delivered by baritone Philip Skinner as Montezzone. Alexander Anisimov, as Sparafucile, made a credible assassin. Contralto Ann Gjevang offered a vulgar-sounding rather than seductive Maddalena, while the Rinald Choir sounded well-rehearsed.

Jerusalem International Convention Center, July 10.

Ury Eppstein

*letto* was impressive, bringing some different qualities to the performance. Italian baritone Paolo Coni (July 11) sang the title role in a highly - sometimes overly - lyric manner.

German baritone Eike Wilm Schulte (July 17) was the weakest of the three *Rigolettos*, showcasing a large voice but concentrating too much on the score. As the Duke, who sings the most popular aria "La donna e mobile," Cesar Hernandez featured a rather small voice.

It was Gilda who stole the show. In this cast, soprano Maureen O'Flynn sang with warmth and agility.

Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, July 11, 17.

Michael Ajzenstadt

## CONCERT ROUNDUP

bers of the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra and conductor Joseph Primavera crowded the stage to almost beyond capacity.

There was nothing tentative or immature about the playing of Leonard Bernstein's rather intricate, highly syncopated *Candide* Overture. Tzvi-Avni's *Communion* movement from his *Desert Scenes* was played with almost religious fervor, responding to what the composer in all likelihood might have wished. Smetana's *Moldau* was rendered with a freshness and genuine excitement that is too often missing in more adult orchestras.

Contemporary composer Frederick Kaufman's Cello Concerto *Kaddish*, a solemn, discursive work in the Late Romantic style,

was played impressively and in just this spirit by Mark Drobinsky.

The overambitious task of performing Brahms's Symphony No. 4 was handled with some understandable caution, but the youthful musicians' obvious dedication made up for a sense of uneasiness. In a Souza march, as an encore, they sounded much more at ease. *YMCA Auditorium, Jerusalem, July 11.*

Ury Eppstein

SHULAMIT RAN's concerto for orchestra (1987), one of the local works selected for the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra's European tour, was the piece de resistance in the IPO's pre-tour concert No. 1 by David Shaloun.

The work is no doubt a good choice for representing the last decade's vintage of local music. It

features a formally structured first movement to contrast sonorous and build tension and an epilogue which is a veritable calm after the storm.

Mendelssohn's *Calm Sea and Happy Voyage* Overture was not too promising a start. But Brahms's Symphony No. 4, mercifully made one forget this awkward opening. Its rich sound, abundant dynamic nuances and convincing tempi, leading up to a rousing climax of the last movement, indicated there is a good chance we may still be proud of the JSO's performance abroad. *Jerusalem Theater, July 12.*

Ury Eppstein

ANTONIO Pappano continues to create magic with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, leading it in Leonard Bernstein's Symphonic

Dances from *West Side Story*.

The concert opened with the overture to Verdi's *La Forza del Destino*, in which Pappano drew a cohesive and grand sound from each section. There were several operatic selections, the most impressive being Violetta's aria "E strano... Sempre libera" from Verdi's *La Traviata*. It was performed with agility, panache and incredible vocal technique by Maureen O'Flynn. She later delighted the audience in a duet from Lucia di Lammermoor, which she sang with tenor Cesar Hernandez, whose small voice was disappointing. Baritone Frederick Burchinal was impressive in two Verdi arias, yet lacked a real dramatic sense. *Mann Auditorium, Tel Aviv, July 15.*

Michael Ajzenstadt

# Winfrey silences her producer

BEN KUBASIK

**E**XPECT Oprah Winfrey's syndicated talk show to do more "softer" topics - self-help, affirmation, spirituality and sisterhood - now that she has fired Debra DiMaio, her hard-driving executive producer of 10 years.

[The show is broadcast locally weekday mornings on cable's Star Plus.]

The latest edition of *TV Guide* says that Winfrey's desire for a change in direction and the arrangement of an unbending DiMaio led to DiMaio's abrupt departure.

Many staffers had threatened to leave unless DiMaio, known for

riding roughshod, was removed, according to the magazine.

The ultimatum came at one of the staff's occasional "bitch sessions," which DiMaio pointedly was not invited to attend, the magazine said.

It was not the first time Winfrey had been confronted by the staff about DiMaio's demoralizing tactics, but it was the most serious attack ever of the Winfrey-DiMaio team.

If she had agreed to Winfrey's softer approach, the magazine

said, DiMaio might have been allowed to stay on board. DiMaio, however, demanded a sleazier talk-show mix.

Many staffers believe Winfrey kept DiMaio around to be the "bad cop," with Winfrey the good cop. "Or maybe," said one, it was "good twin/evil twin, like the show we once did."

Underlying all else, the Winfrey show's ratings this past season were down slightly, not the right direction for Winfrey, whose new contract calls for her show to stay on the air through the year 2000. *(Newsday)*



The talk-show hostess fired her executive producer in the face of a staff mutiny. (AP)

# Plenty of antics, but no belly laughs

THEATER REVIEW

NAOMI DOUDAI

**JOKO LIVES IT UP**  
By Roland Topor. Translation and direction, Nikko Nitai. Music, Idan Sokolowski. Costumes, Dafna Kook. Hebrew title, *Hahagiga shel Joko*. At Hasmita Theater, Old Jaffa.

Joko ..... Yoav Bar Lev  
Dr. Persen ..... Eliezer Applebaum  
Wanda ..... Vicki Moros  
Mother ..... Pina Kasher  
Van Ton ..... Dani Lerner

Roland Topor's *Joko* plays antithesis in this zany allegory of contemporary affluent society. As a Chaplinesque victim of its ruthless industrial structure, he opposes as well as exposes the cruel reality beneath its implacably technological surface.

Joko refuses on principle to carry on his back (literally, as depicted here) his prestigious parasitic social superiors. Only when trapped by the abject state of his impoverished dependents does he eventually surrender. Then, he too joins the rat race to the gateway to hell.

Topor's attack on the new amoral bourgeoisie (today's leaders of academia, industry, high-tech and PR, including the purveyors of sleazy sex) follows in the iconoclastic footsteps of Alfred Jarry and Fernando Arrabal.

For his tragic comedy, he combines grotesque, fantastic and surreal elements that depart from all accepted notions of comedy. In his mini cafe-theater, Nikko Nitai realizes them with verve, extravagantly orchestrating 11 actors in a perpetual frenzy of complicated movement.

plished mime and vocal performers to excite belly laughs and sustain prolonged interest.

On the other hand, if Joko (Bar-Lev) is no Charlie Chaplin, with Eliezer Applebaum as the deadpan, loony doctor, Vicki Moros as the eye-catching Wanda, Dani Lerner as a wry-faced clown, and O.A. Zakai as the simple sister, we have four hilarious presentations. A few more talents of that caliber and this show might have been a side-splitting success.

# Housewarming welcome

HELEN KAYE

**D**ALIA and Dori Zaliouk have never seen the new opera house at the Tel Aviv Performing Arts Center (TAPAC). But they bought a subscription "because the ad campaign convinced us."

Tirzah Noiberg took out a subscription with a friend because she decided to "spoil" herself now that her children have left home. Last season Robert and Rochelle Half went with friends to the New Israeli Opera, but for the 1994/95 season they decided to buy seats in row 10 of the opera because "we have confidence in the new house."

They are some of the 3,500 people who have bought first-time subscriptions to the NIO for its first season at the Mishkan, as TAPAC is more familiarly known.

Response to the subscription

drive has been so great that the NIO has increased the number available from 13,000 to 15,000. Earned income from subscriptions for 1994/95 is estimated at NIS 8.05 million compared with NIS 3.8 million last year.

Living it up in the state-of-the-art splendor of the new 1,500-seat opera house ranges from NIS 350 for a seat up in the rear balcony on weekdays (five operas) to NIS 1,104 for an orchestra seat on Saturday nights (eight operas).

Now there is a new subscription series called Trio, which includes a discount for Yosef Tal's new opera *Yosef*. The others on the Trio bill are revivals of *Faust*, *Cavalleria Rusticana* & *Pagliacci*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *The Love of Three Oranges* at prices from NIS 204 to NIS 420.

The NIO will open the season on October 23.

# Haifaites put best feet forward

DANCE

DORA SOWDEN

**H**AIFA may be accredited as a prime ballet center, what with three outstanding studios - those of the Pasternaks, Kaj Lohman and Liora Bing-Heidecker - and a prima ballerina (Guyana Shakartian).

It was worth coming from Jerusalem to the Suzanne Dellal Center in Tel Aviv earlier this month to see the Bing Haifa Ballet, even at such an awkward time as Friday at 2:30 p.m.

The first item choreographed by Bing-Heidecker made one remember she was a disciple of the late Valentina Arkhipova-Grossman.

A dozen ballerinas (ages 14-18) made that clear. Their style was perhaps not yet completely formed but the steps were clean and lyrical - nothing daring but nothing chaotic.

What followed was in more modern manner. Most interesting was a neoclassical duet choreographed by Spaniard Victor Olari, danced by Maya Weiser and Kfir Danieli, recalling Balanchine even in the costumes.

Of two works by Michal Hason Bardas, one called *Shakti* was billed as a premiere (music: Stravinsky); it was animated and stylish. A

year is a goodly number to come from the dance faculty of the Jerusalem Rubin Academy, but 13 items on the program is something else. At the Rebecca Crown Auditorium last week this number of achievers showed off their choreographic entries for the qualifying examination.

One cannot expect young people to do much more than absorb the excellent teaching they have been getting, but too many of the essays relied on the clichés of modern dance - rolling on the floor, doing somersaults, carrying each other about - to provide the high points of their creations.

## TOWER RECORDS' TOP 15

THIS WEEK	LAST WEEK	WEEKS ON CHARTS	ARTIST	TITLE
#1	1	1	FILM SOUNDTRACK	LION KING
#2	3	2	HIT MAN 1994	VOLUME 5
#3	9	2	AEROSMITH	GET A GRIP
#4	1	2	TOP POP 1994	VOLUME 4
#5	10	9	ZIKNEI TZFAT	ZIKNEI TZFAT
#6	18	20	MARIAH CAREY	MUSIC BOX
#7	11	41	BOAZ SHARABI	YOU ARE THE NIGHT TO ME
#8	16	10	GLYKERIA	LIVE
#9	12	31	ACHINOAM NINI	NINI AND DOR
#10	7	3	LEONARD COHEN	LIVE
#11	13	2	HIT BOX 1994	VOLUME 6
#12	5	8	EYFO HAYELED	DEMONS
#13	19	3	GYPSY KINGS	BEST OF
#14	8	41	SHLOMO ARTZI	COMPLETE COLLECTION
#15	6	22	DAVID BROZA	MASSADA

Tower Records' top-selling albums for the previous week. RE - re-entry

# Two stops for Whiffenpoofs

**T**HE Yale Whiffenpoofs, a choir made up of 14 newly minted graduates from that Ivy League university, is coming next week for two performances as part of its world tour.

At one performance on Sunday (Heichal Hatarbut, Ra'anana, 9 p.m.), the group will be performing jointly with the Vocale Octet, which, like the Yale group, sings

without musical accompaniment. On Monday, 9 p.m., they will appear at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem. The Whiffenpoofs, founded in 1909, will adhere to their tradition of performing American standards - including songs by Cole Porter, who was a member of the choir in 1913 - along with popular songs and jazz.

Jerusalem Post Reporter

THIRTEEN GRADUATES this

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## BUSINESS &amp; FINANCE

TUESDAY, JULY 19, 1994

## Government companies lose NIS 1.27 billion in '93

Defense industries' losses wipe out gains of other firms

JOSE ROSENFELD



Nitzani: This year's plans to sell \$1.5 billion in government companies is unlikely to happen. (Israel Sun)

GOVERNMENT companies lost NIS 1.27 billion last year, as the defense industries' NIS 2.33b. loss dwarfed the NIS 1.06b. in profits of other industries, according to the Government Companies Authority annual report published yesterday.

Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) reported a loss of NIS 1.348b., compared to a loss of NIS 445 million in 1992.

Last year's loss included NIS 1.088b. in early retirement compensation payments, which made up 80 percent of the company's total losses. IAI's orders continued at a pace of \$2.5b. and sales totaled \$1.4b. Israel Military Industries (IMI) losses reached a record high of NIS 960m. compared to a NIS 635m. loss in 1992, as 63% of the loss consisted of compensation payments to workers.

During the first third of the year, IAI's losses totaled NIS 29.1m., while IMI registered NIS 57m. in losses.

Government Companies Authority director Yossi Nitzani recommended that the restructuring of the three defense companies be made in a coordinated fashion.

He said this would ensure that their activities do not overlap, thus avoiding destructive competition among themselves.

The most profitable companies last year included the Israel Electric Corporation with NIS 285.3m. in profits, Bezek with NIS 282.7m., Oil Refineries with NIS 142.5m. and Israel Chemicals with NIS 111.8m.

Nitzani pointed that privatization activity took off in 1992-93. Last year, the sale of government-owned companies and banks netted \$1.24b., as the sale of companies brought in \$550m. and banks \$691m.

Nitzani said this year's plans to sell \$1.5b. in government companies is

spectus for the sale of Bezek until the issue of opening international long-distance service to a second operator is resolved.

Nitzani said that for the first time European and Japanese investment banks are showing an active interest in getting involved in participating in overseas issues of companies on sale.

The first actual involvement of a European investment bank took place when a British bank won a tender to value El Al.

Ten days ago in London, investment banks made concrete declarations of interest to participate in the privatization of Bezek, ICL and El Al.

Nitzani announced that yesterday the request for proposals for the sale of between 52% and 100% of Shikun Ufotek by private investors was issued.

In recent meetings with investment bankers, Nitzani was told that now was an ideal time to come out with the sale of ICL shares, since the demand for the company's products is on the rise.

The government plans to sell 15% of ICL shares to private investors, and at the same time sell 32% of ICL shares by means of foreign issues.

Nitzani explained that it was important to do the two sales concurrently, since it shows the government is serious about getting out of the business and it also assures the private investors that there is an international market for their shares.

Nitzani called on the government to act to remove two of the major obstacles harming state firms - the rigid public sector wage structure and government interference in the running of the companies.

He noted that those two factors make it difficult to run the companies efficiently and profitably.

## Creditors ask court to put Adacom into receivership

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Tel Aviv District Court is scheduled to discuss Adacom's future this morning after the company's major creditors petitioned it to put the company into receivership.

Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi yesterday asked the court to appoint attorney Lipa Meir as Adacom's receiver.

The petition was made following Judge Yesai Levit's decision last week to reject the request by creditors and Moti Gura, Adacom's major shareholder, to appoint an operating receiver for the company.

Levit also rejected the banks' request to protect the company against

Adacom's other creditors. The banks said Alon Cohen, Adacom's temporary operating manager, will not be able to implement a recovery plan without protection.

Adacom's debts to Bank Hapoalim and Bank Leumi amount to some \$6 million, while the company's subsidiaries owe the banks an additional \$40m.

Many of Adacom's workers received letters from management at the end of last week informing them of its decision to temporarily put a

stop to operations.

Management decided to put the workers on forced leave until Adacom's general shareholders meeting, scheduled for the end of the month.

The Yokne'am-based computer communications company is suffering from large losses and liquidity problems.

Adacom completed the first quarter with a net loss of NIS 28.6m., compared with a net profit of NIS 1.2m. in the corresponding period last year.

Operating losses increased to NIS 7.3m. from operating losses of NIS 1.7m.

## Renaissance Fund joins group in bid for Shekem

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE Renaissance Fund has joined a group of investors headed by Koor Industries in the tender to purchase controlling interest in Shekem, Koor confirmed yesterday.

The Renaissance Fund, which has raised \$157 million, was formed by Claridge Israel and Stockton Partners.

The Koor consortium is made up of Koor, Tadiran Consumer Products, businessman Alfred Akroff, a subsidiary of Israel Phoenix Insurance and Kital.

Six other groups, in addition to the Koor consortium, have submitted proposals to participate in the tender for Shekem, the government-owned department store chain.

## BUSINESS BRIEFS

Clal Israel interested in becoming partner in Meir Ezra Group: Clal Israel is examining the possibility of becoming a partner in the Meir Ezra Group as part of its efforts to strengthen its position in the food manufacturing field. Clal plans to increase its share in the food sector through its subsidiary Clal Industries.

Meir Ezra is engaged directly and through its subsidiaries in food production, trading and storage. The company which is traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, is active in the meat, fish, natural food products and cold storage fields. Sources in the food sector said negotiations between the two companies started several weeks ago, but they have not yet agreed on the structure of the transaction.

Insurance policy, pension plan combination now available: The Harel Hamishmar Shiloah Sahar insurance group, in partnership with the Atidot pension fund, is offering an insurance policy which also includes a pension plan. Harel Hamishmar Shiloah Sahar general manager Yair Hamburger said the Atidot Gold plan is the first joint-venture agreement between an insurance group and a pension fund.

Arco wins \$3.6 million Electric Corp. tender: Arco Electronic Control has won the Israel Electric Corp. tender to produce and supply internal power load controlling devices valued at \$3.6 million. The Rishon LeZion-based Arco, which is involved in a know-how agreement with the German based F&I, participated in the tender against K.A. electronic equipment, which is involved in a know-how agreement with the German Concordia.

NASDAQ delists InterPharm: InterPharm Laboratories has received notification from NASDAQ Stock Market Inc. that as of last Wednesday, its ordinary shares were delisted from the NASDAQ SmallCap market. The action was the result of what NASDAQ termed "the company's failure to meet the shareholder requirement as set forth in... the NASD by-laws."

The by-laws require "300 beneficial holders of a company's security in order for it to continue to be included in the NASDAQ system." A controversial \$22 per share tender offer made by parent company Ares Serrano to InterPharm minority shareholders reduced their numbers significantly.

Shmuel Frenkel allowed to stay on as adviser to Harish: The High Court made an interim ruling that Industry and Trade Minister Micha Harish could continue employing Shmuel Frenkel as an adviser until the government provides all the relevant criteria for the employment of individuals from the private sector, a ministry spokesman announced. The Civil Service Commission committee on conflict of interest has twice ruled that the employment of Frenkel - head of the Epsilon investment consulting firm - constitutes a conflict of interest.

Manufacturers want to be involved in Jerusalem bourse: The Jerusalem Manufacturers Association wants to be involved in the establishment of the capital's stock exchange, businessmen told mayor Ehud Olmert yesterday. Jerusalem's name would bring the new exchange international attention and advance the city's economic standing, they said. The group said they would be willing to invest in the funding of the second bourse.

Meeting with members of the Chamber of Commerce in Tel Aviv last week, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said there was interest in the second bourse tender offer, scheduled to close at the end of the month. Asked if it would take up to three years, Shohat refused to pinpoint a date, but said it was not a matter of so many years.

## WORLD BRIEFS

Cocoa soars to 6.5-year highs: Cocoa, overshadowed in recent weeks by coffee's meteoric ascent, turned the tables yesterday as prices raced to 6.5-year highs.

Cocoa for September delivery jumped \$34 to £1,102 a tonne as nervous investors and manufacturers rushed to buy up cocoa supplies to try to preempt the kind of wild speculation that has helped add 80 percent to the value of coffee in recent weeks. Reuters

Italian markets fear government crisis over graft: Italian financial markets dived yesterday as the two-month old government of Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi sank deeper into crisis over a controversial bid to stop magistrates arresting corruption suspects. The lira skidded to seven-month lows against the German mark, while anxious investors sold government bonds and shares.

The lira was being quoted at 1,002.50 to the mark at midday, better than early lows of 1,003.60, but sharply weaker than the Bank of Italy's indicated rate of 994 on Friday. The Milan bourse Mibtel Index was down 2.3 percent at 11,036 points. Reuters

## Booklet published on rights of bank customers

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE Bank of Israel's Supervisor of Banks public complaints department yesterday announced the publication of a consumer awareness booklet on bank customers rights.

The booklet includes typical consumer complaints and how the central bank has ruled in such cases.

It also recommends how to act in similar situations and how to avoid costly mistakes.

The booklet deals extensively with the rights of guarantors and with the different types of guarantees the banks require.

On this subject, it also explains the amendment to the guarantor law which affords additional protections on loan guarantors.

The mortgage section explains the early mortgage repayment rules for individuals who borrowed the money in the early 1980s, when interest rates were very high and who qualifies for easier terms on the early repayment fee under the Poraz Law.

It also illustrates cases of mistaken interest rate calculations and mortgage payment schedules.

Another section deals with bank fees and describes cases where banks collected fees that they were not allowed to impose.

The booklet describes the limitations on bank accounts for minors and gives an example of how to deal with a partnership's bank account when there is a dispute between partners.

The booklet also deals with the problems related to closing bank accounts, foreign currency, savings accounts, etc.

The public complaint department received 3,000 calls from the public last year.

About 60 percent of the calls were complaints, while the remainder were requests for clarifications and explanations.

The Supervisor of Banks Department found 38% of the complaints to be justified.

Anyone interested can contact the Supervisor of Banks Department at 02-552-467 and receive the booklet, which is not available in English.

## UPDATED PURCHASE TAX BRACKETS FOR DWELLINGS AND AGRICULTURAL LAND

April 16 - July 15	%	July 16 - October 15	%
Dwellings			
Up to NIS 158,870	0.5	Up to NIS 173,180	0.5
NIS 158,871 - NIS 393,700	3.5	NIS 173,181 - NIS 429,150	3.5
Over NIS 393,700	4.5	Over NIS 429,150	4.5
Agricultural lands			
Up to NIS 112,485	0.5	Up to NIS 132,480	0.5
Over NIS 112,485	5.0	Over NIS 132,480	5.0

The new purchase tax brackets effective July 16, 1994, were adjusted 9.01% to reflect the price increase of dwellings.

## Shohat, Frenkel plan strategy for smaller budget deficit next year

JOSE ROSENFELD

FINANCE Minister Avraham Shohat and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel met yesterday to discuss the framework for next year's budget.

Both sides declared after the meeting a wide area of agreement on budgetary goals and on the budget's general framework that is needed to continue economic growth and lower inflation.

Shohat and Frenkel said a smaller budget deficit is required to guarantee growth and keep prices under control, but it is not clear if they agreed on a specific reduction.

Budget Director David Brodet has said recently that the deficit will be cut by more than a tenth of a percent under this year's deficit of three percent of GDP.

Both sides agreed that taxes have to be cut, especially since the tax burden is expected to rise when the health tax and the union tax are imposed with the implementation of the National Health Insurance Law.

Frenkel called for tax cuts to encourage production and employment and keep prices under control. His statement implies Frenkel is pushing for tax cuts for employers, rather than lowering Value Added Taxes or purchase taxes, which would encourage greater consumption and increase the pressure on prices.

Last year, during the debate on this year's budget, Frenkel criticized the Treasury for not cutting taxes enough. The sides also agreed on the need to continue large infrastructure investments. The Bank of Israel also criticized the government last year for not investing enough in infrastructure.

Frenkel emphasized the importance of continuing the policy of opening the local market to imports and of increasing competition, since these reforms help lower prices.

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ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Member of the Bank Leumi Group

Notification of Annual Meeting (that was postponed) of the General Assembly of Maccabi Magen, Mutual Medical Insurance Association Ltd. The annual meeting of Maccabi Magen, which was postponed, will take place on Wednesday, August 3, 1994 at 08:30 a.m., at 27 Hamered Street, Tel Aviv, 16th floor.

- Agenda:
1. Election of chairman of the General Assembly;
  2. Board of Directors Report;
  3. Approval of Annual Accounts;
  4. Approval of the Yearly Budget;
  5. Election of Board of Directors and other Bodies;
  6. Appointment of Auditor;
  7. Correction of the Association Charter, pertaining to the following issues:
    - a. Correction of Chapter E paragraph 1 to the Association Charter with regard to the settling of disputes by an arbitration court of the Association;
    - b. Correction of Chapter B, paragraph 6 to the Association Charter regarding distribution of membership as a result of non payment of dues for more than 6 months;
    - c. Correction of Chapter F of the Association Charter by addition of a paragraph regarding the statute of limitations of complaints or claims of Association members, at the end of one year from the date of the event which caused the complaint or claim;
    - d. Alteration of Chapter E, Paragraph 1(5) of the Association Charter regarding the required quorum in a General Assembly, to be changed from one-third to two-thirds of all the members of Association in accordance with Rule 7(b) of the Statutes of Mutual Associations (establishment) - 1976;

The meeting will take place with whomever is present, at the above stated time and place, and all decisions regarding corrections to the Charter will be made by those members present.

Board of Directors



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- Highly competitive interest rates on term deposits

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Key Representative Rates	
US dollar	NIS 3.0100 +0.10%
Sterling	NIS 4.7084 +0.33%
Mark	NIS 1.9517 +0.73%

New York market indexes	
DJ Industrial	7971.11 +0.18
DJ Composite	7971.11 +0.18
NYSE Composite	287.74 +0.18
NYSE 100	287.74 +0.18
NYSE Midcap	287.74 +0.18
NYSE Smallcap	287.74 +0.18
NYSE Microcap	287.74 +0.18
NYSE Ultra Smallcap	287.74 +0.18
NYSE Ultra Microcap	287.74 +0.18

Other stock market indexes	
FTSE 100	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 1000	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 2500	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 5000	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 10000	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 20000	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 30000	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 40000	287.74 +0.18
FTSE 50000	287.74 +0.18

Israeli stocks in NY	
Amihai	45.5
Amihai P	45.5
Amihai S	45.5
Amihai T	45.5
Amihai U	45.5
Amihai V	45.5
Amihai W	45.5
Amihai X	45.5
Amihai Y	45.5
Amihai Z	45.5

NYSE / AMEX	
Amihai	45.5
Amihai P	45.5
Amihai S	45.5
Amihai T	45.5
Amihai U	45.5
Amihai V	45.5
Amihai W	45.5
Amihai X	45.5
Amihai Y	45.5
Amihai Z	45.5

Dollar crossrates (US)	
US dollar	NIS 3.0100
Sterling	NIS 4.7084
Mark	NIS 1.9517
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Franc	NIS 1.0000
Yuan	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000

Labor rates	
Hourly	NIS 1.0000
Daily	NIS 1.0000
Weekly	NIS 1.0000
Monthly	NIS 1.0000
Quarterly	NIS 1.0000
Half-yearly	NIS 1.0000
Yearly	NIS 1.0000
Yearly	NIS 1.0000
Yearly	NIS 1.0000

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.	
US dollar	NIS 3.0100
Sterling	NIS 4.7084
Mark	NIS 1.9517
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Franc	NIS 1.0000
Yuan	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000

Data communications and hardware maintenance by ABA Computer Systems Ltd.	
US dollar	NIS 3.0100
Sterling	NIS 4.7084
Mark	NIS 1.9517
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Franc	NIS 1.0000
Yuan	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000
Yen	NIS 1.0000

US commodities	
Oil	NIS 1.0000
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000

Spot market metals (US)	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

New York metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

London metal futures	
Gold	NIS 1.0000
Silver	NIS 1.0000
Copper	NIS 1.0000
Aluminum	NIS 1.0000
Zinc	NIS 1.0000
Lead	NIS 1.0000
Nickel	NIS 1.0000
Platinum	NIS 1.0000
Palladium	NIS 1.0000

TEL AVIV STOCKS	
Multi-sided trading	
Bank Leumi	170.88 -2.57%
Bank Hapoalim	172.51 -2.43%
Bank Mizrahi	170.94 -2.06%
Two-sided trading	
AFTERNOON	
Name	Price Change
Bank Leumi	170.88 -2.57%
Bank Hapoalim	172.51 -2.43%
Bank Mizrahi	170.94 -2.06%
MORNING	
Name	Price Change
Bank Leumi	170.88 -2.57%
Bank Hapoalim	172.51 -2.43%
Bank Mizrahi	170.94 -2.06%

# Sharp rise in CPI sends shares into decline

## TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



THE market reacted sharply to the news of the 1.4 percent rise in June's Consumer Price Index, as the Two-Sided declined 2.7%, the Maof 2.4% and the Karam 2.1%.

Turnover was NIS 173 million. The market was as stunned by the high index, as was the rest of the financial community.

The worst forecasts were that the index would rise 0.8% to 0.9%, as June is traditionally a low inflation month. The June rises for 1992 and 1993 were 0.1% and 0.2% respectively.

The high index could have several implications for the economy at large and the stock market in particular - and all of them are bad.

Interest rates are certainly not coming down, as some predicted, but will in all likelihood go up.

The rosy forecasts mentioned as the base for the 1993 state budget will have to be reviewed. For instance, the official inflation forecast, originally 8%, has been revised to 11%, which is also likely to prove too low an estimate.

No one believes that the high index is a flash in the pan. The economy has moved into an inflation mode. The question is what will the government and the Bank of Israel do about it.

There might be a devaluation, although Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel has denied this. Even if a devaluation does occur, it is not likely to do much good. If there is anything the country learned during the years of hyperinflation, it is that devaluations do not succeed in creating anything but more inflation.

The government might decide to enforce such anti-inflationary measures as implementing austerity in the fiscal field or postponing the planned tax reforms.

But no one really believes the government will take these actions. The market is far from enthusiastic about either alternative.

Higher interest rates might be the kiss of death to the semi-recovery of the market, while a renewal of inflation would also be bad news. Anti-inflationary policies are likely to bring about a recession.

It was thus difficult to find anything to be cheerful about. The news was not much better. Whatever enthusiasm traders might have felt about the progress with Jordan in the peace process was dispelled by the harsh pictures of the Erez checkpoint.

The speculative issues were down sharply on the Two-Sided market. Evergreen declined 9%, Abjask was down 10.1%, Danbar fell 8.8%, Joel 5.6%, Cohen Development 6.2%, Magen 5.9%, Naphia 8.1%, Formula 6.7% and Poryon was down 9.5%.

The Meir Ezra group was up sharply following reports that the Cial group is planning to invest in those companies.

Meir Ezra was up 7.7%, T-Bone Veal jumped 18.1% and Poseidon 9%.

On the Maof market, declines were across the board, as most securities listed there fell by 3%.

One noticeable exception was the Elron group, with Elron rising 3.5% and Elbit by 1.5%.

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# British shares close slightly higher in lackluster trade

## WORLD-MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - The FTSE 100 ended slightly higher in lackluster trade as the market looked to consolidate last week's sharp rise.

The index rose 7.2 points to close at 3,082.0.

FRANKFURT - The DAX index ended the bourse session firm, propped by demand for Volkswagen, Siemens, Allianz and Thyssen.

But gains were capped by low volume and stock picking, with investors playing safe in a week likely to be dominated by the dollar's woes and Thursday's Bundesbank meeting.

The DAX index closed up 4.58 points, or 0.22 percent, at 2,098.19.

PARIS - French shares booked big gains on the back of foreign buying after the market had been closed for four days due to the Bastille Day holiday.

A squeeze on the bond market, driven by higher German paper and catching up with a rise in US Treasuries last week, boosted financial shares.

The CAC-40 Index ended up 50.54, or 2.56%, at 2,025.13.

ZURICH - Swiss shares ended lower, as selling in Roche certificates continued and dragged the market down.

Trading was confined to professionals, as retail investors kept to the sidelines, waiting for lower interest rates.

The Broad SPI closed 9.17 points lower at 1,661.60.

TOKYO - Tokyo stocks closed lower in thin trade, with most investors keeping a low profile in the absence of fresh incentives.

The Nikkei ended 52.51 points, or 0.25%, down, at 20,717.64.

HONG KONG - Stocks finished higher on firm buying of selected blue chips, but profit-taking pulled the Hang Seng index down below the 9,200 benchmark.

The blue chip indicator added 76.81 points, or 0.84%, to close the day at 9,193.83.

SYDNEY - Continued bullish sentiment and the momentum of last week's 5.5% gain pushed Australian stocks to their highest close in more than a month.

The All Ordinaries index closed 14.3 points up at 2,072.3.

JOHANNESBURG - Gold shares trickled off their highs to end slightly lower as the market searched for fresh proof that recent gains were sustainable.

The Overall Index was 11 points better at 5,587, the Industrial Index 16 points up at 6,403 and the Gold Index off six points at 2,154.

# Higher bond prices lift Dow

## WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The stock market drifted narrowly higher yesterday, encouraged by higher bond prices and a steady US dollar.

With little news to direct investors, bonds were setting the direction of stocks, said James Melcher, president of Balastra Capital. The dollar, stronger today against the Japanese yen, was also a factor, analysts said.

Lower interest rates cut the cost of money for corporations and make shares more attractive. Meanwhile, the dollar has been weak recently, causing concern about future inflation as imports become more expensive.

Stocks were lower early in the day, reversing Friday's late gains amid trading related to the expiration of July stock options. The market often

loses ground gained during the closing minutes of such an expiration, Goldman said.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 1.62 points to 3,755.43.

Advancing issues outnumbered declines by about 10 to 9 on the New York Stock Exchange, with 1,134 up, 1,020 down and 708 unchanged.

Big Board volume totaled 227.45 million shares as of 2000 GMT, against 273.27 million in the previous session.

Standard and Poors Index of 500 stocks rose 1.06 to 455.22, while the NYSE's composite index rose 0.38 to 251.44.

The Nasdaq Index, meanwhile, rose 1.28 to 722.64 at the American Stock Exchange, the market value index rose 1.04 to 432.59.



# From the Amazon to the Atlantic, let's samba!

## Present champs don't compare to past greats

### A tale of two cities



**PASADENA (Reuter) - Brazil** succeeded where some of its more talented predecessors have failed by winning the 1994 World Cup, beating Italy 3-2 in a penalty shootout following a scoreless duel after extra time.

The side that took the trophy back to Brazil for the first time for 24 years will not go down in history as one of the country's most exciting.

The sides which failed in 1982 and 1986 are both regarded as being richer in talent than the USA '94 side.

Only striking partners Romario and Bebeto are held to be in the true Brazilian mould of gifted, ball-juggling players.

Otherwise, coach Carlos Alberto Parreira was forced to make the most of a solid defense, in which right-back Jorginho was outstanding, and a midfield strong in the tackle but lacking flair.

The most obvious flaw was the absence of a genuinely creative midfielder like Gerson, Socrates, Zico or Clodoaldo.

The members of perhaps the greatest Brazil team of all, the 1970 side, have frequently chastised the present side for their lack of imagination. Pele himself has been among the critics.

But Parreira's team avoided the pitfalls, such as internal bickering,



**ICONOPHILIA - Brazil's Romario kisses World Cup trophy.** (AP)

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) - Millions** of soccer fans from the Amazon to the Atlantic turned Brazil into a giant Carnival party on Sunday after Brazil won a record fourth World Cup.

People of all ages, draped in the yellow, green and blue colors of the Brazilian flag, started a victory party which will last at least until today when the Brazilian team arrives home for ticker tape parades.

Fans with painted faces drank beer, sang, danced and paraded along Rio's famous Copacabana beach. Others partied on Sao Paulo's Paulista Ave., the financial district of Brazil's largest and richest city.

It was a stark contrast to public mourning following the death earlier this year of Ayrton Senna, Brazil's three-time Grand Prix auto racing champion. The Brazilian soccer team dedicated this year's World Cup effort to Senna.

Meanwhile in Italy, tricolor flags were refused, air horns put away and fountains left for the tourists as Italians mourned their team's loss.

Despite the loss, some fans took to the streets anyway, and in the city of Massa, a fan was killed when he fell off the bed of a flat-bed truck and ended up with his head under the vehicle. The Italian news agency ANSA reported yesterday that the truck, filled with fans, couldn't stop in time.

Newspapers devoted their front pages to despair at the loss or support for the team.

"Italy, what a shame," announced *Il Giorno*. "Thanks, anyway."



**MISSING THE BOAT - Italy's Roberto Baggio (10) drops his head after missing shot that gave Brazil World Cup final win.** Goalkeeper Taffarel celebrates victory. (AP)

## Yanks sweep Mariners

**SEATTLE (AP) - Jim Leyritz** homered twice and drove in five runs and Danny Tartabull hit a grand slam as the New York Yankees beat Seattle 14-4 on Sunday for their first-ever four-game sweep of the Mariners.

Tartabull's 16th homer capped a six-run seventh inning that made it 9-2. Leyritz had a bases-loaded walk before Tartabull connected off Jeff Nelson.

Leyritz hit a two-run homer during a three-run first inning. He hit another two-run drive, his 15th, in a five-run ninth. Wade Boggs went 4-for-4.

Scott Kamieniecki (6-5) won his fifth game in six career decisions against the Mariners. John Cummings (1-4) was the loser.

Reggie Jefferson and Tim Lincecum homered for the Mariners.

White Sox 5, Indians 2

Frank Thomas and Jose Canseco homered to give host Chicago a split of their intriguing AL Central showdown series.

The four-game series, made more interesting by the mysterious disappearance of Albert Belle's concussed bat, left the first-place Indians two percentage points ahead of the White Sox.

The White Sox play four times next weekend in Cleveland. The teams do not meet after that in regular season.

Belle's bat was taken Friday night after White Sox manager Gene Lamont wanted to see if it was corked, then switched during a break-in into the umpires' dressing room. A bat - apparently the original one - was returned Sunday, although no one said who was responsible.

Jason Bere (10-2) gave up five hits in 5 1/2 innings and walked three with seven strikeouts. Roberto Hernandez pitched the ninth for his 10th save.

Jack Morris (8-6) gave up nine hits in seven innings.

Red Sox 4, Athletics 3

Tom Brunansky hit a foul sacrifice fly in the top of the ninth inning to knock in the winning run.

Otis Nixon drew a leadoff walk in the ninth from Mark Acree (4-1) and stole second. After Tim Lincecum walked, John Valentin sacrificed.

Mo Vaughn was walked intentionally, loading the bases. Brunansky hit a deep foul ball that left fielder Rickey Henderson caught, allowing Nixon to score easily.

Orioles 10, Angels 5

Rafael Palmeiro and Dwight Smith each homered and drove in three runs as the Orioles notched a West Coast win.

Palmeiro hit a three-run shot in the first inning. His 18th homer, and third in four games, came off Russ Springer (2-2).

Smith hit a two-run homer in the seventh, in the third for a 3-1 lead. He added an RBI single in the sixth off Andrew Lorraine, who gave up nine hits and five runs in three-plus innings of his major-league debut.

Jamie Moyer (4-6) benefited from Baltimore's 15 hits. He went 6 1/3 innings and allowed seven hits and four runs.

Blue Jays 3, Rangers 1

Dave Stewart, struggling with a 9-42 ERA over his last three starts, shut down Texas on four hits over seven innings.

Stewart (6-8) snapped his three-game losing streak, retiring the first 13 Rangers before Juan Gonzalez hit his 14th homer into the upper deck in left.

Darren Hall pitched the ninth for his ninth save.

Stewart struck out eight and didn't yield

## NBA draft, salary cap upheld

**NEW YORK (AP) - A federal judge** yesterday ruled that the NBA's salary cap, college draft and right of first refusal do not violate antitrust laws.

Lawsuits filed between the NBA and the NBA Players Association in recent weeks have prevented teams and players from signing contracts while Judge Kevin Duffy decided the legality of the issues.

The salary cap was put in place during the 1980s when several teams faced serious financial problems. It guaranteed players 53% of the gross revenue from the teams.

The right of first refusal allowed teams to prevent a free-agent player from going to another team if they matched the salary terms offered by the other team.

Duffy, while ruling in favor of the NBA, urged both sides to return to the bargaining table.

"No court, no matter how highly situated, can replace this time honored manner of labor dispute resolution," he said.

"Rather than clogging the courts with unnecessary litigation, the parties should pursue this course."

If Duffy had ruled that the salary cap and draft were illegal, all the rookies drafted last month would have become unrestricted free agents and there would be no limit on what teams could offer prospective signees.

Duffy said he could not find antitrust violations because the collective bargaining agreement was controlled by federal labor law and its policies.

Thus, he said, there was no antitrust violation "as long as the collective bargaining relationship exists."

"This does not mean that the players are 'stuck' with these provisions forever," Duffy said.

The judge suggested the players could try to bargain away the provisions, possibly by using economic pressure through a strike, or could decertify the union as the collective bargaining agent.

## Poli wins 16th stage

**CARPENTRAS (AP) - Eros Poli** of Italy went on a long, solo breakaway yesterday to win the 16th stage of the Tour de France while Miguel Indurain maintained the overall lead.

American Lance Armstrong didn't start the stage, becoming the fourth prominent rider in four days to drop out.

Poli took off with 170 kilometers left in the stage from Montpellier to Carpentras, building up a more than 24-minute lead over the main pack that included Indurain.

The leaders were not concerned about Poli. He was more than 1 hour 22 minutes behind near the bottom of the overall standings.

As the pack approached Mont Ventoux, a 1,909-meter climb about 40 km from the finish, Indurain took matters into his own hands. He took off with only a small group able to stay with him, cut the lead down to six minutes by the peak, then headed downhill at speeds close to 110 kph.

Misjudging one curve, Indurain came within a meter of the edge of the mountain. He had to put his foot down to gain control of his bike.

Once back on the flats over the final 10 km Poli was able to hang on. He won the stage by three minutes.

## British press slams 'shameful' tennis

**LONDON (AP) - Britain's Davis Cup** tennis is "shameful," a "laughing stock," "third world" and will need to consult an atlas to find its way to its opponents next year after its 3-2 loss to Romania Sunday saw it relegated to Euro-African zone Group 2.

The British press yesterday was its typical blurt self when it comes to local sporting failure, a topic it has become quite experienced at covering in recent years.

The loss puts the home of the world's greatest tennis event, Wimbledon, in the same category as Ghana, Luxembourg, Morocco, Monaco and other such tennis powers.

The *Daily Mirror's* headline read simply "What a joke", going on to say Britain had been reduced to a laughing stock.

## Twose keeps Warwickshire on top

**LONDON (Reuter) - Warwickshire** batsman Roger Twose hammered an unbeaten 96 from 67 balls against Surrey to inspire the Sunday League leaders to their eighth victory in nine matches.

Warwickshire won by 13 runs at Guildford to stay top of the standings in the 40 overs competition.

Warwickshire has 32 points from nine games - four ahead of second-placed Lancashire, who managed to beat Derbyshire by eight runs at Old Trafford.

Twose, who powered the leaders to 249 for seven, crashed 23 runs off the last over, including three sixes and a four, as he raced from 50 to 96 in 18 deliveries.

Surrey lost opener Darren Bicknell and England vice-captain Alec Stewart cheaply but Alistair Brown clubbed 69 in 49 balls, adding 111 for the third wicket with David Ward (63).

But once they went, the rest of the batting found the task beyond them and Surrey ended on 236 for eight.

An explosive, unbeaten 39 from West Indies captain Richie Richardson carried Yorkshire to a five-wicket last-ball victory over Leicestershire at Scarborough.

Richardson plundered his runs from only 26 balls, settling the issue with the last of six fours as Yorkshire chased a target of 183.

Fellow West Indian Phil Simmons, leading Leicestershire's young and experimental Sunday side, struck 85 from 98 balls, hitting 10 fours.

## Israel in Davis cup draw today

**ISRAEL'S Davis Cup team** will know their next opponents in the 1993-94 competition when the draw is made for the World Group promotion/relegation playoffs today in London.

Israel will enter the draw together with seven other World Group first-round losers and the eight qualifiers from zonal competition.

Of their 15 possible opponents, Israel has faced nine in past times and for the most part, it can already be determined whether Amos Mansdorf, Gad Bloom & Co. will play either at home or away.

If they meet Austria, Belgium, India, Italy or Portugal, the tie will be played at home, because Israel last traveled to meet these opponents. If they face Hungary or Switzerland, the tie will be played away.

Israel has never faced the other six nations. Home advantage will therefore be determined by lot. The six are: Australia, Croatia, South Africa, Peru, Uruguay and Indonesia.

## St Louis hires ex-Ranger coach

**ST LOUIS (Reuter) - The St. Louis Blues** on Sunday named former New York Ranger coach Mike Keenan their new coach and general manager.

Sources close to the team said Keenan will sign a five-year contract worth at least \$1 million a season.

Keenan guided the Rangers to their first Stanley Cup championship since 1940 in his first season as the team's coach. He had four years remaining on a five-year, \$4.5 million contract.

Keenan said he decided to leave New York because the club failed to live up to its contractual obligations. Keenan refused to elaborate on the contract problems he was facing, but Rangers executives termed his actions "capricious."

According to a Rangers spokesman, the breach to which Keenan referred was a one-day delay in the issuance of his bonus check.

Keenan and General Manager Neil Smith reportedly have not seen eye-to-eye on a number of personnel moves and there was widespread speculation that one of them would not be back for the 1994-95 season.

Keenan, who has taken three different teams to the Stanley Cup finals, owns a 395-252-77 record during a nine-year NHL coaching career. He coached the Philadelphia Flyers from 1984-88 and the Chicago Blackhawks from 1988-92.

## Dimona C in cricket upset

**DIMONA C** shocked fancied Netanyahu in one of the biggest upsets in the local cricket scene in years. Dimona was reeling at 66/7, but staged a dramatic comeback to snatch the victory.

Dimona C 135/8 (Head Scorer: 45 n.o., Neil Starkowitz 3/33) beat Netanya 131 (Shmuel Dekalier 39, Jackie Dekalier 4/26, David Talbar 4/33).

Beersheba 157 (Nasr Gaudier 63, Salim Cohen 31, Moshe Walzler 4/29, Benji Kahlon 3/37) beat Elveron Stars 115 (Zeev Moshe 66, Benny Gaudier 3/43, George Shale 3/35).

Yotam Ashdod 120/6 (Stanley Perlmutter 35/4, Alan Moss 3/57) beat Tel Aviv 113 (Perlmutter 33, Nissim Jilard 4/28, Alex Ashdod 3/34, Sammy Solomon 2 c. 2 stumpings).

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
New York	W	L	Pct.	GB
Baltimore	54	36	.597	-
Boston	54	37	.589	1.5
Detroit	45	46	.500	9.5
Toronto	42	50	.457	13.5
Yankees	40	50	.444	14.5
Central Division				
Cleveland	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	53	36	.592	-
Kansas City	54	38	.588	1.5
Minnesota	48	44	.522	7
St. Louis	43	47	.478	11
White Sox	42	48	.468	12.5
West Division				
Los Angeles	W	L	Pct.	GB
California	44	47	.484	-
Oakland	40	51	.440	4
Seattle	38	54	.413	6
San Francisco	37	54	.407	7

**SUNDAY'S AL RESULTS:**  
Milwaukee 5, Minnesota 1  
Chicago 5, Cleveland 5  
Baltimore 10, California 5  
Boston 4, Oakland 3  
New York 14, Seattle 4  
Toronto 3, Texas 1  
Kansas City 4, Detroit 1

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
Atlanta	W	L	Pct.	GB
Montreal	55	34	.616	-
Philadelphia	54	37	.593	2
New York	44	48	.478	12.5
Pittsburgh	42	48	.468	14
San Francisco	42	50	.457	14.5
Central Division				
Cincinnati	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houston	54	37	.593	-
Pittsburgh	43	47	.478	10.5
St. Louis	42	48	.468	11
Chicago	38	52	.422	15.5
West Division				
Los Angeles	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	47	45	.511	-
San Diego	46	48	.489	2
San Francisco	43	50	.462	4.5
San Diego	37	56	.398	10.5

**SUNDAY'S NL RESULTS:**  
Atlanta 2, Florida 1  
San Diego 10, New York 1  
Houston 5, Pittsburgh 0  
San Francisco 6, Montreal 4  
Philadelphia 9, Los Angeles 7  
Chicago 3, Chicago 2 (10)  
Colorado 10, St. Louis 6

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# Ben-Eliezer reaches compromise with Kiryat Arba settlers

HERB KEINON

THE government will not allow the occupation of Kiryat Arba's Ashmorot Yitzhak neighborhood, but will sell or rent other government-owned apartments in the main settlement, Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Kiryat Arba leaders yesterday.

Ben-Eliezer told the settlement leaders that the illegal occupation of Ashmorot Yitzhak was a "political act," and that he is not the address for attempts to create political facts on the ground.

Ten days ago, about 15 Kiryat Arba families squatted in the apartments on the edge of Kiryat Arba, bordering a number of Arab homes, the day after Sarit

Prigal was killed by terrorists near the settlement. These families left three days later after receiving assurances that their demands to move into Ashmorot Yitzhak, and other requests, would be considered.

Ben-Eliezer's spokeswoman, Ofra Pruess, said the minister told the settlement leaders he is willing to solve Kiryat Arba's housing problems "just as he solves housing problems throughout the country," but that he is not willing to "provide them with political solutions."

Kiryat Arba local council head

Zvi Katzover said after the meeting he was disappointed the government will not allow Kiryat Arba residents into Ashmorot Yitzhak, but was pleased that other government-owned apartments will be offered to the 85 families now living in mobile homes in the settlement.

Several hundred apartments in Kiryat Arba — and some 4,000 in settlements throughout the territories — have stood empty for last two years largely because of the government's refusal, as part of its settlement freeze, to put them on the market. Katzover said Ben-

Eliezer agreed to sell or rent these apartments in Kiryat Arba "according to the need."

"We will continue to negotiate over Ashmorot Yitzhak," Katzover said. "There are other officials who will negotiate on our behalf." Katzover would not say to whom he was referring.

Ben-Eliezer told reporters after the meeting that if settlers once again move into Ashmorot Yitzhak, "the whole agreement will be canceled."

The Kiryat Arba leaders were also told the ministry would help them expand the local community center and finish construction of a synagogue in the settlement.

# Peres: Casablanca to host 'unprecedented' M.E. parley

DAVID MAKOVSKY

AN unprecedented Middle East economic conference is to take place this fall in Casablanca, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres announced yesterday, predicting that the heads of no fewer than 2,000 companies will attend.

"A year ago, nobody believed that an international economic conference for Middle East development was possible. Now, in the aftermath of political agreements with the Palestinians, and [those] now emerging with Jordan, the idea is actually happening," Peres said, in a written statement. All Middle Eastern leaders will be invited, he said.

The event will take place on October 30th, and will be hosted by Morocco's King Hassan. The conference, an idea long favored by Peres, was arranged after the foreign minister's meeting with Hassan in Morocco last month.

According to a Foreign Ministry statement, the parley will enjoy the patronage of US President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin. Two other groups will actually be organizing the event, the Davos-based World Economic Council and the

US-based Council on Foreign Relations, the statement said.

The foreign minister said the parley will lead to massive investment in various projects, mostly in infrastructure, but others as well. Peres listed tourism, water, transportation, energy, agriculture, media, and finance as areas likely to attract investment.

The foreign minister convened industrialists and senior economic officials on Sunday to discuss getting organized for the conference. Officials who participated in the meeting said Jordan has told Israel that if the Casablanca meeting proves successful, it would host one in Amman next year.

A diplomatic source said a regional economic conference focusing on the private sector has special importance in light of the disappointing multilateral talks on regional cooperation.

"The Europeans and Japanese are not putting in big money into the multilaterals. This makes it more important not to lean on governments, but turn to the private sector. This is what the Moroccan conference is supposed to achieve," the source said.



Arab council heads confer in the protest tent they set up yesterday across from the Prime Minister's Office. They claim the government has not fulfilled its financial commitments to their towns. (Rina Hod Ne'eman)

## Arab council heads set up protest outside PM's Office

DOZENS of Arab local council heads set up a protest tent outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem yesterday to press for a solution to their budgetary problems and NIS 200 million debt.

The officials may also begin a hunger strike at the site.

They are demanding that the government help cover their debt by the end of the year. They proposed covering the debt through loans, government grants, and levies on local residents.

The leaders are also demanding that the government equalize budgets of the Arab and

Jewish localities.

The budgets of the Arab localities are calculated by the government at NIS 1,050 per person compared with NIS 2,400 in the Jewish sector, they said.

Over a month ago, the Arab localities ended a month-long strike, after reaching an understanding with Interior Ministry officials. The Arab council heads said they were promised NIS 150 million over the next four years.

However, they said yesterday they had not received any funds since that meeting. Moreover, they are asking that the funds disbursed over a three-year period, rather than four.

The Interior Ministry said yesterday it was surprised by the decision of the Arab local heads to set up a protest tent, in light of the settlement reached with the ministry.

The ministry said NIS 35m. would be transferred to the local authorities this year. Part of the money has already been given, it said.

This year's grant to the Arab local councils stands at NIS 292m., an NIS 84m. increase over last year, according to the ministry.

The ministry added that the local authorities had accumulated a NIS 281m. debt because they have not collected water and municipal taxes. (Itim)

## Cabinet approves bill for compensating highway 'victims'

JOSE ROSENFELD

THE cabinet yesterday gave the final nod to the Trans-Israel Highway legislation, which will establish criteria for compensating landowners whose lands will be expropriated for the project.

Although the cabinet approved the bill on June 22, it requested its legislative committee to draft more flexible compensation criteria than those included in existing expropriation law.

The legislation authorizes the Trans-Israel Highway Corporation to immediately take over the expropriated lands, and prevents compensation claims from delaying the building of the road. It also requires the corporation to pay compensation to landowners within 30 days of taking their land.

If landowners are dissatisfied with the compensation offered, they will be able to turn to a special compensation committee — headed by a retired judge — to ask for more money. As long as compensation payments do not exceed the value of the land at the time of expropriation, the committee will be able to provide alternative land owned by the Israel Lands Administration, or give affected landowners priority in land tenders, or the right to manage concessions that will be established on the expropriated lands.

Should landowners still unhappy with the special committee's decision, they will be able to appeal it to the Jerusalem District Court. A special panel of judges will be appointed to hear such cases.

Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer said that the road, which will extend from Beersheva to the northern border, will take between five and seven years to complete.

Following the cabinet decision, Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that the road will change the country's transportation and employment picture.

The legislation has been forwarded to the Knesset for its approval. Knesset members identified with farm interests, such as the moresh movement, are expected to oppose the legislation and demand higher compensation.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Snap decision saves soldier from death

A soldier riding a motorcycle saved himself from certain death by jumping from his bike moments before it hit a tank carrier, which then dragged the cycle some 170 meters.

The carrier, traveling on the Rosh Pina-Elifelet road, tried to pass when the opposite lane was not clear. Tamir Robert, the motorcyclist, who was directly in its path, could not evade it, and instead jumped off the bike to the side of the road. He suffered only a bruised leg.

After the truck hit the bike the truck driver braked, but the bike eventually burst into flames, burning the driver's cab. The driver jumped out of the cab and was not hurt. He was later detained for questioning.

"We don't see a miracle like this every day," said Rosh Pina police commander Chief Supt. Robert Shalom. (Itim)

### Foreign worker killed in accident

A 30-year-old worker from India was killed yesterday in a work accident at the Jewish Agency warehouses at Tzrifin.

The man had climbed to the roof of one of the warehouses to paint it, when the roof gave way. He plunged 10 meters to the ground and landed on his head. He died on the spot.

Lod police, together with an investigator from the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry, opened an investigation. Police said the man had a permit to work here, and had been doing so for several years. (Itim)

### Man killed when truck strikes tree

Ilan Ohana, 22, of Beit She'an was killed early yesterday morning, and his three passengers were injured, when the pickup truck he was driving collided with a tree on the Beit She'an-Tiberias road. Police say Ohana's truck swerved off the road on a curve for unexplained reasons. The passengers suffered light to moderate injuries and were taken to Poriya Hospital near Tiberias. (Itim)

### Bill would ease sentence for murder

Justice Minister David Liba'i said yesterday he is trying to speed up preparation of a bill to eliminate the mandatory life sentence for murderers.

The mandatory sentence, he said, fails to make allowances for special circumstances, such as a mistaken belief that one's life was in danger or a history of abuse of the murderer by the victim.

### Rosh Ha'ayin declared a city

Rosh Ha'ayin was officially declared the country's 52nd city yesterday, at a ceremony attended by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who also serves as interior minister, and other officials.

Rabin noted that the city began as a *ma'abar* (transit camp) in 1950, populated by immigrants from Yemen, who had arrived on Operation Magic Carpet. (Itim)

### Malaysia: Trade ban on Israel to continue

Malaysia's government will continue to enforce its ban on trade with Israel, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

Mahathir was commenting on the visit of Tunku (Prince) Abdullah Abdul Rahman, brother of the Malaysian king, to Israel recently to explore trade opportunities. It could be considered wrong for the prince to have made the visit, he added.

Mahathir said Tunku Abdullah's visit was private and solely for the purpose of obtaining information on business opportunities.

### Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the ace of spades, seven of hearts, seven of diamonds and king of clubs.

## Ron Arad tribute kicks off festival

AMIR ROZENBLIT

HUNDREDS of candles flickered and people wept in Arad's Oron Cinema last night, as Boaz Sharabi sang his "Song for Ron" in tribute to missing IAF navigator Ron Arad. It was an uncharacteristically soft, but genuinely moving beginning to this year's Israel Song Festival.

Festival organizers intended for the opening to be largely devoted to classic Eretz Yisrael songs, performed by such stalwarts as Hedva and David, Netanel, Shoshana Damari, and others.

Indeed, in the closing event of the evening, "Benny's Friends" sang a tribute in memory of Benny Amdursky, led by his longtime partner Yisrael Gurion, Hanan Yovel, and the Parvarim. It was a fitting salute to an artist who left his mark on an entire generation of Israeli song.

But despite this welcome attempt to extend the appeal of the four-day event to an older audience, it was evident the Arad Festival still belongs mainly to the young.

Thousands of them have arrived with backpacks and sleeping bags and taken over the city, making it — for this week at least — the Hebrew rock capital of the world. It is more than that, however, for the Arad Festival is also a colossal happening; a place to be and to be seen.

In terms of youth fashion, the bit of this festival appears to be T-shirts emblazoned with the images of stars Shlomo Artzi, Aviv Gefen, and the Machina rock group, which are selling for NIS 20 each.

As in previous years, the Black Hebrews are manning colorful booths, selling incense and braiding the hair of teenaged girls. Last night's performances featured some unusual ethnic appearances, outstanding among which was Bustan Avraham, a Jewish-Arab instrumental group.

Another was Gabi Shoshan's debut performance of his "Maraksh Express," evoking memories of his Casablanca childhood, youth in Israel, and maturation in America.

## Parents protest separation from their children by social workers

MICHAL YUDELMAN

A GROUP of parents belonging to the Hadas Association held a protest vigil outside the Knesset yesterday, to protest being separated from their children against their will by social workers.

One of the association's leaders, Hadassa Glick, said that hundreds of families have been torn asunder unjustly, by the sometimes arbitrary decisions by social workers to have their children taken away from them.

She accused the social workers of providing the both secular and rabbinical courts with distorted information and lies, in order to separate children from at least one of their parents. The judges and rabbinical tribunals tend to believe the social workers, without questioning both parents, she said.

Consequently, some children are placed in foster homes or put up for adoption against their parents' will.

"In certain cases interested par-

ties have pressured social workers to testify that a certain parent is unworthy, and the court, without checking any of the evidence, takes the child away from that parent," Glick said.

She said that her former husband, for instance, got harassed by police pressure social workers into taking her three children out of her custody on the pretext that she did not care for them properly.

The Labor and Social Affairs Ministry said that in divorce cases, after checking and hearing all sides, social workers make a recommendation to the court as to which parent is better able to care for the child. All final decisions on custody are made by the court.

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